THE VALLEY FARMER.

Devoted to the Interests of the Cultivators of the Soil in the Mississippi Valley.

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THE VALLEY FARMER

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ADVERTISING.—The outside pages of the Valley Farmer are appropriated to advertisements, which will be inserted at the following rates:—One square of 12 lines, first insertion $1, subsequent insertions, 50 cents each. Cards of six or less inserted for $4 a year.

Wheeler's Horse Power and Thresher.

This machine, manufactured in Albany, N. Y. has taken the precedence wherever used of all others. Large numbers have been sold in the east, but until very recently it has not been introduced into the West. For a year or two there has been an agency in Chicago, and the sales have far exceeded the expectations of the manufacturers. We have made arrangements by which we expect to have the machines for sale in this city; and expect to receive the first shipment in the course of five or six weeks. In the May number of the Farmer we shall publish an extended notice, accompanied by an engraving. The Editor of the Prairie Farmer says that with this machine two horses and four or five men have done as much work day by day, as threshers with eight horses and ten men operating along side of them. One man informs us, that he thresned 160 bushels in a day, of wheat yielding only eight bushels to the acre. This we call large threshing: Another informs us that his wheat yielded from 7 to 9 bushels per acre, with straw enough to produce in common seasons 20 or 25 bushels. With the same span of horses working every day, and his machine elevated 19 inches, his ordinary threshing was eighty bushels per day. Others in the same circumstances, by hard driving, or changing horses, have threshed from one hundred to one hundred and fifty, and in one case, as we have said, one hundred and sixty.

"For several years we have been urging the want on the part of the farmers of a *small horse power*, which each one could own, keep and use, with his own help, without being obliged to call on his neighbors to assist him in getting out his grain. This implement meets that want, so far as we can judge."

THE FARMER'S GUIDE TO SCIENTIFIC AND PRACTICAL AGRICULTURE. Detailing the Labors of the Farmer in all their variety, and adapting them to the seasons of the year, as they successively occur. By Henry Stephens, F. R. S. E., author of the Book of the Farm," etc., etc., assisted by John P. Norton, M. A., Professor of Scientific Agriculture in Yale College, New Haven. New York: Leonard Scott & Co. 1850.

We have received from Woodward's, corner of Chesnut and Fourth streets, the first number of this work, which we have perused with more than ordinary gratification. The work is to be comprised in about 22 Nos. of 64 pages each; will contain 18 or 20 steel engravings and more than 600 wood engravings, in the highest style of the art. Price, 25 cents per number, or $5 for the work complete.

This work is to be, emphatically, what its title purports—a Farmer's Guide; commencing with the first principles of the SCIENCE, as manifested to the youthful novice, and going on through all the variations of practice and theory, to the complete and perfect mastery of the subject. It should be in the hands of every farmer; it should be a text book in every agricultural college and institute. The study of its pages by the youth of the land would win many a boy to the love of rural life and employment, who now burns with a foolish desire to escape from the irksomeness of farm labor, and mingle in the exciting scenes of city life. The names of Henry Stephens and Professor Norton are a sufficient guarantee of the excellence of the work.

Banner Wheat.

In our January number we published an article from the New England Farmer in relation to the "Kloss Blue Stem Winter Wheat," or "Banner Wheat," which appears to have excited considerable interest, as we have received several letters making inquiries about it. For ourself, we dot know that any of this variety has been grown in the West; but we wish to call the attention of our readers to the subject, and if any of them are possessed of information upon the subject, that they will not fail to communicate it.

The following note, appended to a business letter was received a few days since. We regret to say, however, that our worthy partner, in opening the letter was so occupied in looking for money that the wheat escaped his notice, and was scattered in the gutter:

Jasper Co. Mo. March 23, 1850.

Mr. Abbott: *Dear Sir*,—I observe in the Jan. No. of the Valley Farmer a short article on the subject of "Banner Wheat," and being engaged in milling business it is a subject in which I am considerable interested. I send you a sample of wheat, which is called "May Wheat" in South Western Missouri. It is about four or five years since its introduction in this section of country, and I have observed that it has thus far never failed to produce a good crop when properly put in. It gets ripe about two weeks before any other wheat: and although the wheat crops failed alwost entirely here last year, I do not know of an instance in which the aforesaid wheat has failed. It is *bald* wheat and makes an excellent article of flour *Query*. Is this he "Banner Wheat?" R. M. W.

We think not; but at the same time we time we may be mistaken. In Allen's American Farm Book is a notice of the "Virginia May Wheat," which was formerly extensively in eastern Virginia and Maryland, and latterly in New York. It is described as maturing full two weeks earlier than the common varieties, and in other respects appears to agree with our correspondent's "May Wheat." We find the following article on the subject published in the N. E. Farmer some fourteen months since. Will not our brother editors of the N. E. Farmer and Maine Farmer enlighten us a little in the premises?

Kloss Winter Winter.—A few years ago various seeds were received at the Cultivator office, from the Commissioner of Patents which was distributed for experiment. Rufus M'Intire, Esq., of Parsonfield, Maine, is the only person who has reported on it. With him it has been very promising, and he made the following report after the last season's experience, which we copy from the Boston Cultivator. We should be pleased to hear something of its origin, and of its culture in in other regions.

"My kloss white blue stem winter wheat passed through the winter perfectly safe, but suffered from rust and the worm. It was not sown last fall till I had taken off the corn crop late in September; thus it did not get up much before winter. I think, if sowed in August, it would have escaped the ravages of the worm, and possible of the rust. A small patch sown early in September, where early potatoes grew, escaped the worm; and was but slightly injured by the rust. I have acre now up and looking green and well, sown early, and half an acre sowed September 22; so I shall have another trial of it next year. The rust on wheat and potatoes struck this year unusually early. In common seasons I think my wheat would have been out of the way of it. I have great confidence that this variety of wheat is sufficiently hardy to stand our severest winters. It is the same kind, successfully cultivated by Mr. Drew on the Kennebec. I obtained the first specimed of you from the patent office. Can you, or any of your readers, tell where it orignated, or where it is cultivated?"

Osage Orange Hedges.

To the Editor of the Valley Farmer:

Dear Sir,—A great deal has been said and written concerning the Osage Orange, and I will give your readers my views about it for what they are worth, I have not cultivated any of it yet, but there being some growing my neighbor's garden, I have watched it very closely and think by good and judicious management it may make a very good hedge. I perceive in your last number one of your subscribers wants to know the general management &c. Now I would not hesitate one moment if I had a mile of this hedge, to cut it down, as I feel confident it never can succeed in any other way. Take for example, an oak shoot or sapling, and bend it down—will it then throw out any latterals or side shoots near the ground? certainly not; but cut it off say six inches above the ground and it will throw up from two to eight shoots. Now it is those shoots you want to make your bottom thick, and if your hedge has a good bottom the top will be good likewise. You may take a young peach tree and cut it off and it will throw up quite a quantity of shoots.

I might go through the whole list of forest trees and shrubbery, from the oak to the rose bush, and show that they *all* will throw up more or less shoots by being cut down, by this I come to the conclusion that the Orage Orange must do the same. The Hawthorn in Europe is cut down for four years, and I have seen them so close that a rabbit could not get through. I perceive that Mr. Downing reccommends heading down—he further says that if you are planting on a small scale you are to apply a good coat of manure and dig it in two spades deep, and that it will not do well without as its roots penetrate to a great depth; and if you are planting for field purposes you must sub-soil plow.

I think that eight inches in the row would be about the right distance to plant. Keep them clean, and any time in the spring before they have put out their leaves, cut them all down with a pruning knife six inches above the ground, you will find a good knife to answer as well as any thing the first year. The second spring you ought to have a proper instrument made. The one we used in England was about four feet long, the blade two feet, and the handle two feet. The blade might be made out of any old scythe, but if you

wish to have a proper tool nave it about two inches broad two feet long, that is the blade, and turned in a little at the point, similar to a pruning knife; this fit into a two foot handle and you are equipped.

You must in splashing your hedge with one of those instruments always cut *upwards*, the cut will then be clean. The second season you may cut it fifteen or eighteen inches above the ground according to the strength of the shoots, after the second cutting you can better judge the hight to leave than I can direct you, there is no doubt but you will have to head it down for five years, but above all try to get your hedge thick in the bottom, the top will take care of itself and keep it from weeds as much as you can.

JAMES TURNER.

St. Louis, 1850.

How to Ruin a Son.

1st Let him have his own way.

2d Allow him free use of money.

3d Permit him to roam where he pleases on the sabbate.

4th Give him full access to unprincipled company.

5th Call him to no account of his evenings,

6th Furnish him with no stated employment.

Pursne either of these ways, and yon will experience a most marvellous deliverance, or will have to mourn over a debased and ruined son! Thusands have relized the sad result and have gone mourning to the grave.

Precisely, that is the right way to ruin a son. Every body knows it, for it is an every day observation. No one need go need go astray who wishes to accomplish such an object; there are examples all along the path of life.

A few Useful Hints

FOR LADIES WHO CULTIVATE PARLOR FLOWERS.

To the Editor of the Valley Farmer:

Sir.—I send a few useful hints for the female readers of the Valley Farmer (as I presume there are some) but it one be benefited by it I shall be satisfied for my trouble.

1st. Never plant a flower in an old tea pot, pint cups, &c., but get a proper flower pot, as you cannot well make drainage throngh those vessels, and without proper drainage no plant will do well.

2d. Don't make it a practice to water your plants once or twice a day, but give them water when they need it, in the morning or evening during summer, but never when the sun shines on them, it is not a good plan to fill the saucers underneath the pot as they are for quite another purpose, namely: to keep your window sills clean, you dont see them used in green houses. You had better give your plants too little water than too much.

3d. Don't try to force your plants in the winter, but give them rest by giving them water sparingly, and keeping them pretty cool, they will not grow much, water in the morning in the winter season the mould will dry some before evening and not be so liable to get frozen.

4th. Most plants ought to be repotted in the spring when other trees and shrubs begin to put out their foliage, by turning the the pot upside down and giving it a slight knock against any thing it will all come out in a ball if the roots be matted together which they propably will be, unloose them then or put them in a larger sized pot(reminding to put a broken piece of pot upon the apperture in the bottom) for a general compost you might use one half good soil one fourth well rotted manure and one fourth river sand, mix them thoroughly and fill your pot about half full, then spread the roots evenly on the surface and fill it up pressing it gently down, give it a good watering and keep it from the sun for a few days.

J. TURNER.

St. Louis, April 1850.

Rules in Raising Poultry.

The Canterbury Journal gives the following rules for raising poultry:

1. All young chickens, ducks, and turkeys, should be kept under cover, out of the weather, during rainy seasons.

2. Twice or thrice a week, pepper, shallots, chives or garlic should be mixed up with their food.

3. A small lump of assafœtida should be placed in the pan in which their water is given them to drink.

4. Whenever they manifest disease, drooping of the wings, or any other outward sign of ill-health, a little assafœtida broken into small lumps, should be mixed up with their food.

5. Chickens which are kept from the dunghill while young, seldom have the gapes; therefore it should be the object of those who have the charge of them so to confine the hens as to preclude their young from the range of barn or stable yards.

6. Should any of the chickens have the gapes, mix up small portions of assafœtida, rhubarb, and pepper in fresh butter, and give each chicken as much of the mixture as will lie upon one-half the bowl of a teaspoon.

7. For the pips, the following treatment is judicious—Take off the indurated covering on the point of the tongue, and give twice a day, for two or three days, a piece of garlic the size of a pea. If garlic cannot be obtained, onion, shallot, or chives will answer; but if neither of those be convenient, two grains of black pepper to be given in butter, will answer.

8. For the snuffles the same remedies as for the gapes will be found highly curative; but in addition to them, it will be necessary to melt a ittle assafœtida in fresh butter, and rub the chicken about the nostrils, taking care to clean them out.

9. Grown up ducks are sometimes taken off rapidly by convulsions; in such cases, four drops of rhubarb and four grains of cayenne pepper, should be administered. Last year we lost several by this disease, and this year the same symptoms manifested themelves among them; but we are arrested the malady without loosing a duck, by a dose of the above medicine to such as were ill. One of the ducks was at the time paralysed but was thus saved.

To Preserve Beef Steaks.—As the warm season is fast approaching, when meat cannot be kept for more than a day or two in a fresh state, it will be of no inconsiderable benefit to many to be informed, that if fresh meat is rolled up in indian corn meal, it will keep for four or five days. The stake should be laid down in pieces from one to three pounds, and each piece covered entirely with the meal.—[Gem of the Prairie.

The Land of Egypt.

This is a term sometimes derisively applied to the southern portion of the State of Illinois; and many persons have supposed that the great fertility which characterizes all the rest of the western lands is wanting here. How true this may be, the reader can learn from the following article.

Dr. Roe, the editor of the Morgan Journal, was for sometime a resident of Southern Illinois, and in his description of that portions of the State, he 'speaks from the book.' We had previously supposed that section of Illinois was rich in minerals, but had no idea that it was so to the extent stated by Dr. Roe. He says:—

There is something remarkable in the way in which even very shrewd men sometimes overlook valuable things close at hand, because they have once fixed their eyes on something beyond. For years, the tide of emigration has been setting into and across the Western States, hunting for some place farther West; and while almost every portion of the country has been for a time El Dorado, South Illinois has been strangely overlooked! It has not happened to be the fashion to emigrate hitherward. And yet the sun does not shine upon a finer country than that! the rain does not fall upon any which better repays the husbandman for his labor. We have seen in Gallatin county, many farms which had brought an average of fifty bushels of corn per acre, for forty successive years! Those were Wabash bottoms and were kept fresh by the overflow of that river. But there are thousands of acres of goverment lands which are not less productive. Even a hundred bushels to the acre is produced in some seasons.

But the feature in Southern Illinois which is least known and appreciated is its mineral productions. Not only do these equal in quantity and value those of any other part of our State, but some of them are not surpassed in the world. The little county of Hardin contains iron ore enough to build the Pacific Rail Road fifty times over. And the adjoining counties of Galatin and Saline could supply them all with coal for a thousand years.—Williamson, Johnson, Union, Jackson, Monroe and St. Clair counties all furnish their beds of mineral coal, under circumstances favorable to mining transportation; and it is found in other counties, more remote from the river. It occurs in great abundance on the line of the proposed 'Central Railroad.'

The iron ore of Hardin and Pope counties is the Brown Hematite—very friable and easily prepared for the furnace. The iron produced from this ore, at 'Illinois furnace,' four miles back of Elizabethtown, is of such superior quality that, as we have frequently been assured, it is used at the Cincinnati and Covington rolling mills, for the purpose of mingling with poor iron from other mines to bring the bad article up to par.

Lead is another article which occurs in great abundance in several of the counties bordering along the Ohio. In Pope county it occurs in the rocks somewhat after the manner of the gold in the quartz veins of California. Yet, although the proportion of lead is comparatively great, it would not, of course, pay for working But in Hardin county, it is found in solid bodies of great weight and almost pure galena. We have seen this ore lying in such quantities at a single spot that a large steamboat could have been loaded down with it. At one point, only a half a mile from the Ohio, zinc occurs in the same pit with lead, though in a separate body, in immense blocks of pure crystalized ore, weighing in some instances, a ton each. The art of reducing this ore by a cheap process is unknown in this country, except to a very few; and this ore has been chiefly used for making brass, by fusing it with the ore of copper. Yet there can be no doubt that it might at this place be made very profitable—zinc being far more valuable than lead. Especially mightit be made valuable for the preparation of the zinc white, a carbonate of zinc which is destined to supercede the white lead as paint. It is equally durable with lead as a color, and does not turn yellow as lead does. It is also free from the poisonous qualities possessed by preparations of lead, which render its effects upon the workmen who use it so disastrous.

Besides these minerals, there are several others found in some the Ohio river counties, which although less valuable, are very interesting to the student of mineralogy. That which occurs in the greatest quantity is the fluate of lime, known as 'Fluor spar,' and in England as Derbyshire spar. In most of the lead mines which have been opened, this spar occurs as the investing mineral, which contains the lead. In the North part of Illinois, and in the Missouri mines, this investing mineral is calcareons spar—neither rare nor valuable. But the fluate of lime does not occur in any considerable quantity any where on this continent, but at these South Illinois lead mines.—Here it also occurs in immense quarries of solid and beautiful spar; and in the north end of Hardin county, there might easily be quarried a single block many feet square, which for solidity and transparency could not be equalled in the world! A pretty tribute this would be from the State of Illinois to the Washington Monument.

The single crystals of this beautiful mineral which are found in this region, are unsurpassed any where on earth, so far as is now known.

As being interesting to the Mineralogists, there are also here ores of Antimony, Arsenic, Copper, Cobalt and Cadium; though none of them in any considerable quantity. There are also (in Pope county) large beds of very pure Lithomarge, or rock-marrow; an interesting mineral, very rare in our country.

Altogether, as fields for the geologist and mineralogist, this part of Illinois is not equalled any where in the Mississippi Valley. And this interest is connected with the whole range of counties bordering upon the Ohio; but we have spoken especially of two or three, because we have seen the things we have described here.

We have said nothing of the commercial position of South Illinois; but lying as a large part of it does, along two of the finest rivers in the world, and below the obstructing influence of ice, it is perfectly apparent that it only requires to be better known, to make it fashionable for emigrants to stop in South Illinois, instead of going father west.

Tilling too much Land.

A writer in the last Granite Farmer under the signiture of "The old Man of the Mountain," thus speaks of the prominent fault of the New Hampshire farmers. and we may add that if it is a fault with the N. Hampshire farmers it is a fault that exists to a ten fold degree among the farmers of the Great West. We hope thet day will come when our farmers will understand that small farms save fences, taxes, and travel. On one of peaks of the White mountains is a prominent rock, standing out against the sky—to the beholder far down in the valley below, presenting the appearance of a colossal human figure. This, from time immemorial, has been styled the "Old Man of the Mountain."

I want you, Mr. Printer, to tell the farmers, that the great *stumbling block* in their path is, THEY TILL MORE LAND THAN THEY CAN TILL PROPERLY. The New Hampshire farmer has hitherto aimed to be a landed *proprietor*, rather than a farmer. He'd increase the *quantity* rather than the *quality* of his land. As my friend the teamster says, "he wants to own all the land that joins him!" This is the prevailing fault in New Hampshire. Now I am told that, down in Massachusetis, 10 and fifteen acres of land is as much as a man would choose to cultivatee, who knows how to improve his land to the best advantage; but up here in my neighborhood a man is not contented unless he has from 150 to 1000 acres of land. This is habit—fashion to no advantage and old Col. Holmes down here on the Merimack used to say it was "a desperate bad fashion." I say so too. But then we come by it kind of natural. The fact is our first settlers wanted to be great landed proprietors. The whole territory of this State was at first the property of one man, Capt. John Mason, I think they called him. He had his land of some gentleman in England, who in company had it granted them by a patent, from the king of England. How that old fellow, James, I think they called him, 3000 miles off, could think he had claim to this land, in possession of, occupied, and tilled by my old friend Passaconaway and his tribes, is beyond my comprehension. But he claimed it and sold it. "Might makes right," as the teamster says, and the Indians have been driven from their lands and as for that—from the face of the earth almost. Well some of the men of those days thought the Indians had the best title to the lands, and they purchased lands of the Indians. My old friend John Wheelwright —Rev. John Wheelwright I should call him, as he was a minister, was one who thought thus. He made a purchase from four Indian Sagamores, of most of the southeastern portion of the state. This was in 1629. I recollect that some twenty years ago, certain men in Massachusetts and in New Hampshire even doubted as to this purchase by Wheelwright, and pronounced his deed a forgery. But had they looked into the matter *diligently*, examined the documents *minutely*, they would have discovered the *genuinenes* of my old friend's deed of 1626. They didn't go to the book. Well, after Wheelwright, came Mason's heirs and the purchasers of their lands,—all aiming to be great landed proprietors. Then there was a batch of Royal Governors. Each of them had a friend to reward, and the State was cut up into towns and districts, for their benefit. Thus it became *fashionable* in New Hampshire, for almost every farmer to have more land than he can *take care of*.

An opposite habit prevails in Massachusetts I am told and because their forefathers pursued a different course from ours. The Plymouth and Massachusetts people, upon landing, I am told, took up only small lots—each one, as much only, as he could cultivate, and hence the fashion in Massachusetts at the present day, of "Little farms well tilled.', Mr. Printer, I repeat it, "Our farmers cultivate too much land." Attempting to cultivate too much, they cultivate none properly. They *skim* over a great deal. There is no economy—no profit in such farming. The farmer should make his calculations. Let him labor understandingly and the result will meet his expectation. The mere *skinning* and *skimming* process has no advantage in it—on the contrary a great disadvantage in it. Where's the use in farmers mowing, tugging and sweating over thirty or 40 acre sot land to get 20 tons of scorched, wiry redtop or speargrass, and this too filled with sorrel, white weed and blackberry vines, when by proper culture and as cheaply, in a long run, he can get the same quantity of well made herdsgrass from six to eight acres of land? Our old friend Holmes would say "there's no sort of use in't—but a vast deal of perplexity, care and hard labor in't and no sort of remuneration."

Cotton Mather.—We have recently had the pleasure of examining Cotton Mather's original manuscript journals for the year 1712, he being then in the fifteenth year of his age. It is good preservation, and is perfectly legible to one familiar with the chirography of those days. The remarkable point in history is this. It came into the hands of the Rev. Nathan Benjamin, at Smyrna, Asia Minor, and was by him transmitted to one of the professors in Williams College. When it made the voayge to Asia, and how long it had been there, are facts unknown to the present possessor.—*N. Y. Obsersever.*

How to Preserve Health.

1. Take sufficient exercise in the open air during the day.

2. Eat light suppers, always two or three hours before retiring.

3. Avoid tea and coffee, and all unnatural stimulants.

4. Retire early. All animals, except those that prowl all night, retire to rest soon after the sun goes down. The early hours of sleep are the most sweet and refreshing.

5. Eschew feather beds; sleep on hair or moss mattrasses, with a light covering of bedclothes.

6. Be sure and have your room well ventilated. It is well known that the Duke of Wellington, now a hale old man is accustomed to sleep on a hard, narrow pallet; and we believe the couch of her majesty is also of the simplest construction. It is reported that the duke justifies the narrowness of his resting-place on the plea, that when a man wsihes to turn over it is time to turn out. We seldom hear the laborious peasant complain of restless nights. The indolent, pampered epicure, or the man who overtasks his brain and denies himself bodily exercise, is liable to sleeplessness.—Am. Mess.

Education and Choice of Profession.

BY JOHN A. KENNICOTT, M. D., OF THE GROVE, ILL.

Continued from page 77.

To the Editor of the Valley Farmer:

Knowledge is the power, and common schools the lever to move the masses aright, in this land of free thought and free institutions. Without education in the peoole much will go wrong; and without proper appliances, good fundamental laws, and skill and science, in systematic details, little can be effected.

I promised to speak of school apparatus, books, &c. Of these you cannot have too much or too many. Maps are cheap, and should fill every pannel of the school room, not devoted to the black board or large slate. You should have, at least, one globe, and some cheap philosophical implements, to illustrate the law of mechanics, if nothing else. And why can yon not afford a miniature chemical laboratory, and sufficient apparatur to produce the gasses, and make analyses of soils, manures, &c.? Fifty, aye, twenty-five dollars will pay for all this, if you have a shrewd mechanic among you, who has read a little, and is in the habit of thinking and creating details.

But, above all—except your THINKING MACHINE, whom God has made, and education endowed—you must have BOOKS—good books, suitable books, and plenty of them. And here I confess myself at a loss what to say or what to advise. Though an old teacher, I have little acquaintance with books of recent issue. I may, therefore, do injustice or mislead you, by parti [illegible]rs. But I must say that so far as I have observed, we fail most wofully in the primary department—especially in reading books for the young. Most of the school books, and many of the volumes found in "juvenile libraries," seem to have been written for the approbation of the parent, rather than the comprehension of the learner. They are all *too old in their language and sentiment.* Why will not school-book-makers study nature, and select subjects for reading lessons completely within the scope of a child's understanding, and of interest sufficient to enlist his feelings, or rouse his curiosity? You need not dress your themes in either the language of the nursery, or the drawing room. Both are alike unnatural, if not ridiculous, and altogether out of place in primary school books, for the first reading of children. And for subjects--go neither to the pulpit nor the professor's desk, but select such as enlist their youthful feelings, and fix their attention—gliding smoothly and naturally into the ever active imaginations, and retentive memories of the young: and dress your thoughts in the terse and expressive *short words* of the genuine Anglo Saxon —the ground work of that heterogenous, but beautiful structure, called the English language, which the young lisp as naturally as they breath; and which, despite its monstrous, if not barbarous orthography, foreigners seem to master with astonishing facility.

We have many valuable, if not perfect school books, for older scholars or more mature minds. Indeed, all the series which I have examined, possess high merits. But do not the faults I have pointed out exist in most of those intended for the beginner? I have ample evidence of this, now grating harshly on my ears, as I sit in my primitive log room. My little daughter is at one end of my table, reading to her excellent mother, as I write this article for the mothers as well as the ch ldren of the West. Let us pause a moment, and listen to this child, too young to follow her brothers to the distant district school—and by the way, three-fourths of the time is occupied by my good wife, in *explaining* the "hard words" as they occur, in the course of the lesson. I jot down a few of these, as I listen—and mind you the book is a popular one, from our "JUVENILE LIBRARY." Here they are: "*Occupations, impartiality, honorary distinctions, annually, application, enterprising, indefatigable, competitors, congratalation, discomposed, consistency,*" &c., &c.

Now, in the name of common sense, and common humanity, I would ask what "consistency" there is in all this; and in one short reading lesson? What child of seven or eight years (unless one that you are MURDERING! or doing your best to render imbecile, by premature cramming,) can understand such language? And yet the story, in this instance, is a good one, and the moral excellent; but the dress has made it as dry and unintelligible as a Greek lexicon.

Mp friends, we have much to answer for, in our mistaken efforts to teach others—and on this score I may not be found blameless—I often use words and phrases that I am ashamed of, when I see them in print. But I have some excuse; I have actually no *leisure;* and then I write for "children of larger growth; and they may refer to their dictionaries—which should always lie near their bibles and their volumes of the VALLEY and PRAIRIE FARMER.

But you will say, perhaps, that one should not point out a glaring defect, without suggesting a remedy—and for this serious evil I would propose that our Boards of Education, in States where such exist, should offer liberal premiums for the production of school books of this class, really suited to the tastes and capacities of the young. We have already a few books worthy of a place in such a juvenile series as I yet hope to see in our public schools. There are modest old teachers enough, with a hat full of brains, capable of originating what we want, if they can have a reasonable prospect of remuneration, without the dreaded risk of publicasion on their own account. See, for example, what an essay on Indian Corn was produced by the offer of a small premium, by the great Agricultural Society of the State of New York. Let suitable rewards be offered, and my word for it, we shall have the books, with all the interest of *Robinson Crusoe,* and in language as chaste and simple, as a child's prattle.

Whatever book or books you may chance to use in your schools, let all be alike for the same class of pupils—for in class, ten are as easily and as efficiently taught as one—indeed, I think much better, for the child will remember and note the mistakes of his class-

mate, more perfectly than his own, because, when engaged in reading or reciting his own particular portion, he is more embarrassed, and his mind more intent upon acquitting himself creditably, than in fixing the idea in his own memory, or trying to comprehend the whole drift of the subject.

Therefore, the larger your school, and the fuller your classes--other things being equal—the better as well as the cheaper "pro rata," where the same price is paid to superintendent and teachers. And remember, always, that a cheap teacher makes a dear school—for "time is money," and life is short; and youth once passed can never be recalled.

If you lose wealth, you can make more; if you lose health you may recover it, but if the son or daughter of the race whose task and whose blessing is labor, fritters away the only days allotted to education, the loss is seldom repared in after life.

As self evident as is the principal proposition above stated, not one psrent in ten is willing to believe it. They think that the more of the teacher's time and attention devoted to the individual the better his or her chance of improvement. Accordingly they advocate small schools, and long hours; and this barbarism I consider a most dangerous and unmitigated evil. Not one full grown man in fifty, can profitably expend more than half his waking hours in close mental effort, on any subject, that has not, from long practice, become a mere matter of daily routine. How, then, can the child who requires twice as much sleep, and twice as much bodily exercise, in order to the healthy growth and development and natural integrity of mind or body, either safely or properly employ from six to eight hours of the day in study? The practice that almost universally obtains in this respect, is as absurd as it is mischievous. For children under twelve, four hours per day in school, are better than six; and more than six may often be considered as very little better than slow and legalized *murder!*

I speak roughly, for I think deeply on this subject; and I draw my conclusions from experience as well as from reading and observation. Study nature and the organization and function of the brain, and its great susceptibility to unnatural excitement and disastrous disease in the young, and beware of overtaxing so delicate on organ.

Let the child's mind at the proper age, (of which we will speak anon) be *wholly* on his task for a seasonable time, and then relieve him with exercise or amusements, or alternate studies, which shall bear on another set of faculties in "the organ of thought." But I have written more than I intended to-day; and have need of a canter over the prairies to clear my own brain. In a month I hope to hold another chat with I trust the numerous readers of the Valley Farmer, and if my rude remarks set but one in a hundred of you a thinking, I shall have attained the object of my pleasurable conference with my distant and unknown readers.

The Grove, March, 1850.

The Morning Dew.

In hot countries, in warm seasons, the vegetables and flowers in the gardens are almost burnt up by the great heat of the sun. At night the flower-bed and vegetable garden present a weak and drying appearance: the morning comes, and shrubs and flowers again show signs of life and freshness, looking as healthy as at any former period, while the leaves and buds pour forth their sweet scents. How great the change during the silent hours of night! and this has been effected by the dew, as it silently rested on the plants.

Dew is one of the many beauties of the morning. On the grass, leaves of trees, and bushes, we behold the bright round drops of dew shining like so many diamonds in the sun; and it makes the ground at early dawn moist all around. How many children see this and get their feet wet, but never give it a thought where it comes from, what the use of it is, or who sends it. Some persons have said that it came down from the clouds in the night, and others have supposed that it came out of the earth and plants; but it is now known that the sun during the heat of the day draws up a quantity of vapor into the air from the earth's surface and its waters, which in the night comes down upon the earth again in the form of dew.

In Jamaica, the dew is very heavy, unless the wind is high through the night. In the mountains the people are prevented from walking out in morning for sometime, on account of it. In seasons when no rain falls for four or five months, the vegetables wauld perish were the dews to be witheld, but instead of being burned up, they are kept alive by this means.

The dew is indeed a great blessing to mankind; it is the gift of God, and is a proof of his goodness, wisdom and power. It was considered so in the days of old. You will see if you read Deut. xxxiii. 13; 2 Sam. i. 21; xvii. 21. Many other passages describe it as a blessing, and the witholding of it as a curse. "My speech shall distil as the dew." Deut. xxxii. 2.

It is needful that the doctrine of God should have the same effect upon our hearts as the dew has upon the grass—that it should make them soft and fruitful, keep them fresh and lively, like the branch of a living vine. It is pleasant to see our fellow creatures influenced by the gospel of Christ. The word of God is precious, for which we should show much gratiude, and praise him continually.—[London Child's Companion.

To make whitewash that will not rub off.—Mix up half a pail full of lime and water, ready to put on the wall; then take a quarter of a pint of flour, mix it up with water, a sufficient quantity to thicken it; then pour it while hot into the whitewash, stir it well together, and it is ready.

Legislation for Farmers.

Congress has now been in session near five months, and as yet nothing has been done for the benefit of the largest class of the citizens of the country—a class in fact, which comprises a *majority* of all the inhabitants of the country. Nor is it likely that any thing will be done, this season. The August elections are aproaching, and the members will be anxious to get home to shake hands with the "dear people," and secure their re-election; so that when every man who desires it has had his own "say" about slavery in the abstract, and California, Deseret, New Mexico, and Texas in particular, a vote will be taken of just the same tenor that it would have been if taken during the first month of the session; then a few diplomatic and financial bills will be passed, and Congress will adjourn, leaving all the great interests of the country unattended to.

The first session of the next Congress will be of course limited to three months duration, and will chiefly be devoted to manufacturing political capital, plotting, counter-plotting and intrigueing; therefore but little is to be hoped for at that time.

The next session will witness the opening of the grand campaign of the canvass for the Presidential election, to come off in the ensuing November. What, with National Conventions, Congressional Conventions, Caucusses, Circulars, Adresses, Speeches, Memoirs, Revews, Manifestoes, Memorials and Protests can be hoped from the "Wisdom" of the country then assembled in the National Halls of Legisation? We fear but little unless the people see to it that *such men* are returned as will attend to these things. Hitherto the fault has been that the farmers have been content to quietly pursue their vocation, without demanding of their public servants that justice which was their due. Isolated by their vocation more than any other class, they have failed to act in concert; and less ambitious and avaricious than the commercial and the professional classes, they have been more easily satisfied, and when the village politician and merchant, had obtained what they asked for, the *farmer* had been wont to imagine that all was right.

But these days have gone by, and the spirit of the age demands that definite legislative action should be had for the benefit of the Agricultural interests of the country; and we hope that through the whole length and breadth of the land a voice will go up in unmistakeable language to our law-makers that will compel them to give heed to the matter.

We have not the space now to enter at large into all the matters that the farmers require at the hands of Congress. We may say, however, that among the most prominent are the establishment of an Agricultural Bureau, in the Home Department of the Government; the passage of a law, giving the public lands in small quantities to actual settlers, or at all events allowing such persons a long pre-emption, and preventing the public domain from being bought up by speculating individuals or companies; and such a Reform in the Post-office Laws as shall promote instead of hinder the dissemination of useful information among the people. Says a cotemporary—"Our Postmaster Generals, for years back, seem to have studied to embarrass the circulation of Agricultural papers, by every sort of anoyance within the sphere of their influence. One would think they were a sort of incendiary document, to be watched and suppressed as far as possible." This is all true; and moreover it has only been by frequent appeals to that functionary that we have been able to obtain from the department what few rights he has been willing to allow us. To state a case: The Valley Farmer, and other similar publications, if not composed of more than two pieces of paper, each number, are allowed to pass through the mails at newspaper postage; that if simply folded; but if we see fit to stitch it together trim off the edges, so as to put it in a suitable shape for reading—notwithstanding both size and weight are reduced by the process—yet it is then charged double postage. Is there any reason in such law?

We believe firmly that the proposed measurs of donating to actual settlers an inalienable freehold in as much land as he may need to support a family, and as he can cultivate in a judicious manner, is one full of benefits not only to many deserving poor men, but to the whole country. No good can be forboded to any country,

"Where wealth accumulates, but men decay."

But if you would surround our liberties with a wall of defence, that no stratagem can undermine, nor force overcome, let it be made of the stout hearts of the honest sons of toil, who feel that they have an interest in the blessings which they defend, which cannot be taken from them or their children by either force or stratagem.

If we desire to secure the permanent enjoyment of vested interests, every man who seeks it should have a portion of the soil. There is little faith in parchments or charters, or in the rights they affect to guarantee, but our republic would endure for centuries, if evry fifty acres was the *bona fide* property of the actual cultivator. Incorporate every man with the soil, cluster around him the conservative influences of home, and you bind him in an allegience stronger than a thousand oaths. Sprung from the earth and destined to return to it, every man wishes to acquire an interest in it some little spot that he may call his own. It is an all absorbing feeling that nature has planted in us.

Osage Orange Seed and Plants.—We would inform our friends who have written for information about these articles that we do not know of any of either for sale hereabouts. But very little of the seed planted last season germinated, and there has been scarcely any good seed in this market this season. Locust seed, which has also been enquired for is not to be had at this place.

Elihu Burrett, the "learned blacksmith" and advocate of peace is making a tour through the Western States lecturing upon the subject of peace, and procuring the apointment of Delegates to a Peace Congress to be held at Frankfort on the Main. His efforts are evry where well spoken of.

From the Ohio Cultivator.

Mr. Bateham:—I observe in the January number of the Wool Grower, a proposition by Mr Ladd, that if twenty wool growers would give their names as competitors, we would have a fine Fair about the 15th of October next. You can give my name as one of the competitors, provided twenty persons come into the measure.

Would you not aid the fine wool growers of your State by publishing in your paper my banter to Mr. Burke. You will see it in the Plough, Loom, and Anvil, December No. You can see the estimate that I put upon my flock, but observe I hold him above 51 deg. North, and I believe no sheep in a frozen region and housed so much, can be brought to the perfection that this climate will do, if properly bred and managed.

Yours respectfully,

Mark R. Cockerill,

Near Nashville, Tenn. Feb. 1850.

The following is the article referred to in the Plow, Loom and Anvil, the editor of which journal introduces it with the remark that, "We have seen nothing so conclusive as to the adaptation of the Southern States to sheep husbandry, as the following, founded as it is on the ample experience of a gentleman of independent fortune, enjoying ample resources of a different sort, and therefore without motive to distort the question, and of a candid and discriminating judgment."

Letter to Hon. E. Burke.

Nashville, October 12, 1849.

Dear Sir:—I have just received the Patent Office Report for 1848, and make my acknowledgement for the insertion of my communication on Wool and Sheep

You seem to think I am decidedly mistaken on the question of value and quality of sheep here and in Europe, and in some aspects I have misconstrued and misrepresented "views of the able writer on German Wool and Sheep."

I refer to my article, for my views and objections to the decided preference given to Germany over the produce of the United States.

I contended that the United States was a better sheep and wool country than Silesia or any high latitude, and that as good bucks can be purchased in the United States for $50, as those in Germany which cost $1500 or 2000.

You, as Commisioner, adjudged that I was in error, and that Mr. Fleishman's views are correct. From this decision I appeal, but not to Judge Cranch, who is learned in law, yet not qualified to decide this case. I appeal to men who have studied sheep husbandry and wool-culture for years, as I have done.

Now as you have decided that I am wrong in the objections urged, and the position taken by me, in favor of the low latitudes of the United States against the high latitudes of Europe, I wish to afford you an opportunity of testing the question of error, and let us ascertain, by the decision of competent men, whether you or I be in the wrong in this matter.

I am not a betting man, and therefore make no banter to the world at large, but to you who have determined and published that I am wrong, and entirely mistaken in these questions, I make the following proposition:—

I will confine myself to my own flock in latitude 30 deg., and will give you all Silesia to select from, which you stand at the head of the continent for a fine and constant character of the fleece, and you shall select a a buck and a ewe from the most celebrated flock in that German or Prussian province; and I will exhibit against you in the city of Nashville, for any sum from $50 to $1500. The premium to be awarded by competent judges to those animals presenting the greatest number of valuable points and qualities, and the best combinations of these points for the production of superfine broadcloths. Time of exhibition and other details to be agreed upon hereafter.

I fix the place of exhibition, because I give you all the flocks in Silesia to select from, but you are not to come south of that latitude, being about 51 deg. north, in making your selections.

I have said that the low latitudes, are superior to the high ones, in wool-culture, and I wish an opportunity of showing to others that I am not wrong, and not mistaken on this subject.

I remain, very respectfully, your ob't servant.

Mark R. Cockrell.

Hon. E. Burke, Washington City.

Importation of Manures into Great Britian.—It is computed that the importation of guano into into Great Britian in a single year, has been 219,764 tons, and that the importation of bones has been of equal amount, making an aggregate of upwards of 500,000 tons of fertilizers of this kind in one year, which at £5 per ton, amounts to an outlay of £2,500,000—($12,500,000.)

Timber for Worm Fences.—In the discussions in the Legislative Agricultural Club of Ohio, one memmer stated that worm fence rails, well kept from the ground, will last 20 years—another, that if well put up the fence will last without repairs 8 years, when it should be re-layed every 4 years adding two new rails each time. Handsome fences were made by splitting all the rails from the centre of the log of one shape, the ends notched together. The rails are found to last longwhen cut in summer, and the bark peeled, so that they will speedily dry as hard as horn, and not remain wet so as to become soft and half decayed by partial fermentation. Black Walnut will thus last 40 or 50 years and oak heart 20 or 30. Shell-bark hickory, peeled and seasoned, will last twenty years or more.

Lard Oil.—It is estimated that 11 millions pounds of lard and fat pork will be used in a year in Cincinnati for making lard oil, nearly one-third being converted to stearine. The fat is extracted from the pork, after it is divested of the hams, by means of hot steam under about five atmospheres in large tanks. One establishment thus reduces six hundred hogs per day.

A sensible man is never angry at the non-sense of otheri.

From the Ohio Statesman.

Practical hints on Wheat Culture.

In my last communication I promised to furnish you with some practical hints on agricultnre, and in redeeming that promise, I know no better course to pursue han to discuss the best mode of culture, adapted for the various field crops in the order of their relative importance. Wheat is, and doublesss will continue to be the leading stable crop of Ohio, and it may be interesting to those of our readers, who are interested in agricultural improvement, to have presented to their view in a clear and concise matter, the much improved methods of cultivating and managing land for that crop.

The average yield of wheat in Ohio for a period of eight or ten years, does not exceed 12 bushels per acre, and under very favorable circumstances the yield rarely exceeds thirty bushels per acre. It is supposed by some hat a high average, such as is obtained in many portions of northern Europe cannot be had in this country, even if the most skilful course of cultivation and management be practised. Our hot sunny days in June, and the short period that the crop has to mature and are the strongest reasons that can be urged in favor of those opinions. There are many counties in England and Scotland where as great an average product of wheat as fifty bushels per acre is commonly obtained; but to effect this result, much labor and skill have to be invested, and when all things are considered, the crop is subject to as many casualties as in the wheat growing counties of Ohio. If the same amonnt of scienee and labor were expended in the production of wheat in Ohio as are done in the counties alluded to, it is pretty fair to infer that as favorable results would be achieved. This labor, however, cannot be had with the same facility in Ohio as in those countries, and besides it costs at leas four times as much here as in the most celebrated wheat wheat growing portions of Europe. But on the other hand, owing to the extreme fertility of much of the wheat land of this country less labor and capital are required to secure equally large products from the soil. Upon a thorough investigation of the matter, it will be found that a given amount of capital, labor and skill, employed in the production of wheat, in the old and new world, that the profits are much greater in the latter thanin the former. In the management of land for arable culture, in a country where labor is high, and the products bear a comparatively low value, the great thing to be aimed at by farmers should be to obtain the greatest possible amount of produce with the least possible amount of labor. Or in other words, in expending sixpence in labor, a farmer should be able to calculate almost to acertainty that a shilling would be had in return. Nothing less than results of this kind should satisfy a sensible farmer, and from much experience and close observation, I am satisfied that the profits of a well managed farm may be made equal in comparison to the amount invested, to that of any other pursuit.

To make farming profitable, however, more skill is required, and this argument applies with greater force in the business of wheat culture than in any other branch of agriculture. The average yield of wheat extending over the best wheat districts of Ohio, might, without much difficulty be made to equal twenty bushels per acre, for a long period of years and to make up so large an average, thirty and forty bushels per acre must neccessarily become very common crops. Now, how shall all this be done, after all ,the great question to define.

The great bane the wheat growers have to contend with is rust or blight. There are many methods by which this disease may be partially if not wholly prevented. But, a course of management that would be entirely successful on certain soils and under peculiar circumstances, would, on a different quality of soils and under very dissimilar combinations and influences produce the disease rather than be a preventative. Hence it is, that there are so many conflicting opinions in regard to the cause and prevention of this somewhat mysterious disease. I shall without further prefacing my subject proceed at once to show some of the leading features of farm management that would be calculated to secure a large average yield of wheat, when carried into practice by an ordinary skilful hand, and for the convenience of the reader shall divide the subject under appropriate heads.

DEEP PLOWING.

The average depth that land is plowed for the wheat crop in Ohiodoes not exceed five inches. To obtain a product of thirty and even forty bushels per acre, no system with which I am acquainted would secure that result, unless the land be plowed at least ten inches in depth. The best time to deepen soils by the ordinary process of plowing is either late in Autumn or early in the Spring. A team composed of three strong horses coupled abreast, at the seasons of the year alluded to, when the ground is soft and moist, will be able to plow the land as deep as necessity may require. The subsoil in most cases coutains an abundant store of the elements of fertility, requisite to secure a large average yield of wheat, to be sown as an alternate crop with clover, and corn or other of the cerial plants. But what use is this store of the reproducing elements of fertility, unless they be brought to the surface by the plow to be exposed to the action of the sun, air and dews, so as to undergo decomposition to be taken up by the sap vessels of the plants? Deep plowing, when the surface soil is composed principally of vegetable remains and the subsoil is of an aluminious and calcarious character, is particularly valuable in imparting to the entire mass a consistency and firmness that is peculiiarly important, for the wheat crop. In the vegetable, like the animal kingdom, like begets like, and if the soil is mainly a vegetable it would stand to reason that a large growth of vegetable would be produced on such soils? The vast amount of decaying vegetables that are constantly undergoing decomposition send forth in a gaseous from Ammonia, Nitrogen, Carbon and other elements of fertility, which are returned again to the soil by dews and rains, and by this process, an overruling Providence supplies comparatively barren soils, with a portion of the super-abundant fertility of the

rich vegetable and valley lands. It is partly on this account that deep plowing is so highly efficaceous in this country for wheat and cerial crops, when performed on soils that are naturally destitute of human or vegetable remains. By plowing the land to the depth of ten or twelve inches, the roots of the wheat plants will strike down to the full depth that the soil had been loosened and crops growing on such soils suffer much less from the drought than when stirred only three or four inches deep. The latter influence is of the greatest in this country especialy during the month of May and June, when the crops are maturing and ripening A soil that is stired to the depth of twelve inches will absorb all the rains that fall during the summer months and the water thus absorbed again returns to the surface by the rootlets of plants and by capilliary attraction, and thus the crops are growing, perfecting and ripening, whilst on shallow soils the water washed off the land into the streams and during a protracted drought become parched up, and permaturely ripen their seed.

CULTURE OF CLOVER.

In no portion of the nothern and eastern States can clover be cultivated successfully for a series of years without the use of sulphate of lime or gypsum. But in Ohio no difficulty whatever is experienced in growing heavy yields of clover without the use of artificial manures. The clover plant is better addapted than any other for the preparation of land for wheat. Clover cultivated as a rotation crop with wheat may be made instrumental in changing the entire character of the soil within a very few years. Its long top roots striking some twelve or fifteen inches in the soil, perform an important office in admitting the air, to a much greater depth than it otherwise possibly could have gone, and those roots whilst undergoing decomposition change the character of the soil; and besides the frequent falls of rain follow the course of the roots, and thus some of the advantages claimed by deep plowing are imparted to the soil through the agancy of the clover plants. The clover plant, like all other broad leaved plants, receive a large portion of its food from the atmosphere, and on the other hand whilst it enriches the soil with many of those elements of fertility that are constantly floating about in the atmosphere to the prejudice of the health of man, it draws from it much that would give grossness to the wheat plant, and thus prevents the propagation of fungus and disease. Wheat grown after clover has a much brighter straw than if sown after a crop of rye, oats, barley, or maize, and whilst the straw is brighter, the head is better filled, producing a larger yield of grain, and in most cases a less amount of straw. Dry barren soils, that in a state of nature could not produce five bushels per acre, may be made so productive in wheat by the culture of clover, that as high as 30 and even 40 bushels per acre may be obtained. This, however, could not be done under a lapse of eight or ten years. From much experience, and many years close observation, I am satisfied that the best wheat soils are those that are underlaid by limestone gravel, and having a subsoil that has a liberal amount of sand mixed with the clay. Such soils do not require much artificial drainage, and the particles of sand taken up by the sap-vessels of the plants, impart to the outer surface of the straw a hard surface that will ratain the sap in their proper channels of communication up to the period that the grain becomes fully ripened. This kind of soil, however, is least valued among us for wheat culture, for the very obvious reason that the improved modes of cultivating it with clover and wheat as alternate crops are not well understood nor appreciated. Such lands as abound in the north-west portion of Ohio may be made the most productive wheat soils in the State. Wheat, clover, and sheep grazing, on sandy soils, is the course of cultivation and management that I would suggest to the favorable consideration of those who have sandy soils or of any other description, in which vegetable remains form a comparatively small proportion of their constituent qualities. The plan of cultivating consecutively for a period of years with the same crop is a most irrational course to pursue, especially when the soil is cultivated by its owner. The virgin soil over a large breadth of this country is so abundantly stored with all the requisite elements of fertility, that it certainly may be made to re-produce the same crop without regard to rotation for an almost indefinite period of time. Where this is clearly the case, there does not exist that neccessity for the renovating process that is secured by the culture of the clover plant; but even on the rich valleys great advantages to succeeding crops are derived from occasionally seeding them down with clover.

SELECTION OF SEEDS, AND THE PROPER QUANTITY TO BE SOWN.

It is at all times desirable to procure seed wheat from a Northern, to be re-sown in a Southern climate.—Wheat brought from Wisconsin, northern Michigan, northern New York and Canada to Ohio, would ripen much earlier than the varieties that have been re-sown repeatedly here, and the increase from this cause alone would, in most cases, be equal to from five to eight bushels per acre. The usual quantity of wheat sown per acre does not exceed five pecks, but two bushels per acre is about the quantity that most soils require. The quantity to be sown ought to be ascertained by careful experiment, as some soils require more and some a less quantity of seed, but in an average cases, two bushshels per acre will not be found too much. When a large quantity of seed is sown, the plants do not grow so strong and luxuriant, and are much less liable to be attacked by rust than if only one bushel per acre were applied, which is about the average amount sown by our wheat-growers. Within the past eight or ten years, new varieties have been introduced into New York from Europe, which affords a much greater yield than the old varieties sown, and are superceding their use, which were the same as those cultivated in Ohio. Frequent cases within our knowledge have been reported where an increase of ten bushels per acre has been harvested, through the single agency of a change of seed from the old to the new varieties.

I know of no better means of increasing the yield of

wheat in Ohio than to change the seed from Northern New York and other countries mentioned, procuring at the same time the most improved and productive varieties. Agricultural societies might do much toward effecting that object, without loosing by the transaction. Millers also who are as much or more interested than any other class of community, would find it to their interest to import yearly the best varieties of wheat from countries that are celebrated for producing a superior sample of grain. Without going to other countries for a change of seed, much may be done at home, toward increasing the yield and improving the sample.

Wheat to be sown on clay land should be brought from a distance, and if possible obtained from a sandy soil, and *visa versa*. In sowing valley land with wheat the seed should be had from a hilly district, and when sown would be preferable. Land recently cleared from the forest produces seed weel adapted for old worn out lands, and that grown on old lands may with advantage be sown on rich virgin soil.

DRILLING.

Wheat in this country, more than any with which we are acquainted, requires to be sown in rows. Since drilling machines have become abundant and may be so easily had, no man who makes wheat culture an important item in his business should be without one. By cultivating wheat in rows to the distance of about nine or ten inches asunder, the plants will support each in the rows and not be liable to suffer from the severity of winter; and the stem will be much firmer and harder than if sown broad-cast. The latter is of the greatest consequence, and aside from other benefits is sufficient to induce every grower to examine carefully into the secrets of this mode of sowing wheat.

I might continue the subject of wheat culture to a much greater length, but probably sufficient has already been advanced on the points under consideration to satisfy many of your readers that much yet remains to be done, before it can be said that agricultnre has reached a very high standard of perfection in Ohio.

Yours truly,

AGRICOLA.

From the New England Farmer.

Grasses.

March 22d, at the agricultural meeting, Mr. Calhoun in the chair. Mr. Buckminister, of the Ploughman, said that the principal grasses were herdsgrass, redtop, and clover. Some farmers were satisfied with these, but he thought that further experiments should be made on other grasses. Fowl meadow makes excellent hay for a changa but it soon runs out. This grass orignated in Dedham. We want some grass adapted to wet lands.

Mr. Asa G. Sheldon, of Wilmington, said that herdsgrsss and redtop were the best grasses on strong soils, but on slight soils clover was more profitable. He thought that the time in which grass sheds its seed was a good season for sowing seed. It succeeds better than when sown in spring. He thought that two tons to the acre was enough, and land that was rich enough to produce four tons to the acre, should be devoted to other crops.

Mr. Brooks, of Princeton, remarked that as a grass clover was not so good as herdsgrass and redtop, but it was better for the land, as its tap root runs deep, and obtains nutriment from the sub-soil. Herdsgrass was not an exhausting crop; he mowed land eight yeais in succession, and yet it was in good condition for other crops. He had tried lucerne and it failed. Fowl meadow dies out in a short time; it makes superior hay for working oxen in summer, as it is less heating than herdsgrass. It is excellent for milch cows for a month before calving, owing to its cooling propensities. He found an advantage in feeding it to a heifer that was affected with the garget. He would raise fowl meadow as a medicine for stock. It succeeds better by cutting late, but the hay is not so good. He knew of no other grasses that were useful. Couch or witch grass is a great pest to the farmer, and of but little value as fodder. It may be killed in a few years by preventing its going to seed. Large crops of grass are not profitable. Two and a half tons to the acre are sufficient.

Mr. J. C. Gray said that he had not a variety of soil. His was rather heavy, and he found herdsgrass and redtop to be the most profitable; the former was the better variety. In curing clover there was considerable waste of the fine parts. He thought that white weed, or oxeye daisy, as well as witch grass, should be cut before going to seed, in order to destroy it As the former flourishes well only on poor soils, he thought it might be kept out of grass lands by good culture. He inquired what effect subsoiling had on grass crops.

Mr. French, of Braintree, said that he had subsoiled about two acres of grass land, and it had a very favorable effect. When he had the care of the House of Industry he sowed lucerne on a dry bank, and it did well. It is not adapted to a clayey soil. Herdsgrass and red top are our principal grasses. We generally keep our land too long in grass. Immediately after haying is a favorable season for plowing grass land.

In making hay, it is best to haul it in in the heat of the day, also to rake that which is not thoroughly made while the hot sun is on it. Then there will be time to mow after securing the hay, and the grass will be ready to receive the sun the next morning. As to the quantity of seed, he would sow half a bushel of herdsgrass and a bushel of redtop to the acre. He reccomended sowing early in the fall. He had drained his salt marshes by making ditches thirty feet apart, three feet deep, and ten inches wide; these would close at the top, but remain open at the bottom. By this mode both the quantity and quaitity of grasses were improved.

Mr. Co e, of the N. E. Farmer, said that Mr. Phinney and others had tried lucerne, but he knew of no one who continued its cultivation. It required land in high tilth and as much culture the first year as a crop of beets or carrots, which would cost as much as the crop would be worth for a number of years. Fowl meadow will continue in the land if cut late, but the hay is not so good. This is the practice of those who raise this grass. He thought this grass was a native of different parts of the

country. He had seen it years ago in new regions in Maine, and old people had long known it in the same location. (Mr. Brooks here remarked that it had long been known in Princeton, seventy-five years.) He thought clover had not been estimated sufficiently high. It made the best hay for sheep, colts, young cattle, and cows, and for horses not at labor, and for working cattle and horses he preferred part clover hay. Animals need a variety of food, and when feeding at large, they eat many grasses besides those cultivated, also numerous kinds of weeds and bushes. Herdsgrass and redtop abound with the same substance, silex or sand, taken up by solution, and which gives firmness to the stalk, but clover has less of this element, and more lime and other ingredients which may be essential to their health. Clover could be well made without waste, by putting it in heaps, after being partially dried, as the moisture will pass from the stems to the air. By sowing grass seed thick, a large crop may be raised, and yet the hay be good and fine. He had raised three tons of excellent hay to the acre.

Hon. Moses Newell, of Essex county, said that he had subsoiled a piece of land three years ago, and the crops were excellent, and they seemed to increase; the soil moist, but not so wet as to need draining. He had subsoiled gravelly loam, and found no benefit from it. He considered clover hay valuable.

Deacon Brooks Shattuck, of Bedford, N. H., said that he subsoiled a piece of grass land, leaving a part without this operation for experiment, and the crop was considerably larger where the land was subsoiled, particularly last season, which was very dry. He considered clover a very valuable grass. A great account of it was made in his region. He had fed working horses one day on herdsgrass, and one day on clover, and so on alternately, and they preferred the clover, and worked as well on it. Clover could be made without waste, by making it partly in the heap, as had been suggested.

The Peasantry of France.

In the late Henry Colman's "European Life and manners," it is a very gratifying picture of the rural laborers of France. He says:—

"I seldom went among a field of laborers in England or Scotland, especially if they were women, without hearing some coarse joke; at least, it has happened so to me many times; and seldom without being solicited for something "to drink your honor's health;" and never, especially in Scotland, without finding them sallow, haggard, barefooted, ragged and dirty. In France it is the reverse; they are well clad, with caps as white as snow, or neat handkerchiefs tied around their heads; and the men with neat blouses or frocks, and good hats I have scarcely ever seen a bare-footed or bare-legged woman in France; let them be doing what they will, they are always tidy;—the address of the poorest (I do not exaggerate) is as polite as that of the best people you find in the city; and so far from ever soliciting money, they have have refused it in several instances, when for some little service I have offered some compensation. Count de Gourcy told me again and again, that even the most humble of them consider it an offence to have it offered to them. I do not believe that there was ever a happier peasantry than the French. Drunkenness is entirely unknown among them; and they are pre-eminent for their industry and economy. I went into one field, with a large farmer, where there were nearly a hundred, principally women, and children, gathering grapes, and I did not see one among them whom I should not have been perfectly willing to have met at table, or in any other situation.

I never knew a people where there is so much charity to the poor; and as to church going, and so far as that constitutes religion, no people go before them; in no places of religious worship have I ever seen more attention, more decorum, and more apparent devotion. I should as soon think of seeing a dead man sitting erect in a chair at church, as seeing an individual in the congregation asleep. The churches here are all free. You may make some contribution at the door, if you choose, but nothing further is demanded.

A very well informed and most respectable American of my acquaintance, who has resided in France twenty-five years, in Paris and in the country, says, he does not believe that there is in any country more conjugal fidelity, or stronger domestic affections, and that in this respect, the French society is a picture of what is most charming in domestic life.

The Great Exhibition.—It is stated that the Committee, who have in charge the arrangements for the World's Great Industrial Exhibition, to be held next year at London, have already determined to erect a building a *mile in length*, with five avenues each a mile long, and that this is only to begin with, as it is thought to be quite too small for the whole. This will appear more probable, when we remember that at the late exhibition of implements at the Fair of the Royal English Agricultural Society, twenty-seven acres were covered by them. To understand well, all that is to be seen at the great approaching exhibition, will require about the same length of attentive observation, as the tour of Europe.

To Destroy Moles.—The Michigan Farmer gives in substance the following, which must go for what it is worth:—A lady farmer said that the meadow moles had anoyed them greatly, and had destroyed two fine pear trees. She tried an expedient for them with triumphant success. Their subterranean passage was uncovered, and two cow's horns, with the large ends from each other, placed in it, so that the moles, coming either way may enter the horns. Such is the "natur of the crittur" that it never backs out of a scrape, persevering ahead till it makes its way or dies in the attempt. The latter it does in the present instance.

Corn Cobs.—The American Farmer says, "we believe there is one-third as much nutriment in a bushel of the cobs, as there is in a bushel of the grain; and we know that cows or oxen, fed upon three pecks of the crushed and steamed cobs, in addition to their usual quantity of hay or fodder, *will keep fat.*"

From the St. Louis Intelligencer.

Plank and Wire Fence.

Mr. Crockett. It may probably serve some useful purpose if you will cause to be published in the Intelligencer, the following sketches in relation to a subject of no small importance to a large portion of your subscribers. who by the way, may fairly claim a small space in your columns occasionally, on the promise contained in your prospectus. The object of this communication is, to exhibit in a plain demonstrative manner, the comparative utility, expediency, durability and cost of plank and wire fences, for farm purposes generally, which shall be set forth with all convenient brevity. In order to make the comparison, let us take one hundred and fifty pannels, twelve feet each in length, (in all 1800 feet:) and four feet and six inches high—the posts for the plank to be planted six feet apart—those for the wire twelve feet. Both kinds to be made of the best materials,(plank, posts and wire)that are commonly used for such purposes, and both to be of reliable strength, and effectual barriers against horses, cattle, sheep and swine, great and small; excepting such only as should be outlawed and slain. In estimating cost, we will suppose all the materials to be delivered on the ground where they are to be used: Say any where within twenty miles of St. Louis—(those for the plank fence will weigh about eleven ton—those for the wire two tons, not including poles)—thus, each line of 12 inch plank, 1800 ft. long, will contain 1800 ft. at 1 1-2 cents per foot, and cost $27. Each line of 6 inch plank same length, will contain 900 feet at 1 1-2 cts., and cost $13 50. Each strand of No. 9 wire, same length, will contain 100 pounds, and cost $9. Posts 25 cents each—ground poles 4 cts. each; battens 4 cts each—nails 5 cts. a pound.

Assuming the above data as sufficiently correct for the present purpose, let us apply them to ascertain the comparative expense of the two kinds of fencing mentioned. Note—the wire as rated above, is supposed to be annealed properly, for this use—it must be annealed, either in boiling oil, or by dry heat; otherwise it is too stiff and brittle.

One Hundred and Fifty Pannels, 1800 feet, Plank Fence.

301 cedar posts, at 25 cts,	$75 25
150 ground poles or rails, at 4 cts.	6 00
1 line 12 inch plank, at bottom,	27 00
5 lines 6 inch plank, sides and caps, $13 50,	67 50
301 battens, one for each post, at 4 cts.	12 04
100 pounds nails, 60 to the pound, at 5 cts,	5 00
Cost of materials on the ground,	$192 79
Planting 301 posts, say 3 cts each,	9 03
Placing and securing ground poles, say	3 00
Carpenter, fitting and putting up the 150 pannels, say 15 cts. per pannel,	22 50
The whole probable cost,	$227 32
Or say $1 50 per pannel.	

One Hundred and Fifty Pannels, 1800 feet, Wire Fence.

151 cedar posts, at 25 cts,	$37 75
150 ground poles or rails, at 4 cents,	6 00
8 strands, each 1800 feet, No. 9 wire, at $9	72 00
Bracing for 7 or 8 of the posts, say	1 00
Staples for top wire—151 at one half cent each,	75
Cost of materials on the ground,	$117 50
Setting the posts and braces,	4 50
Fitting and securing ground poles,	3 00
Fitting and stretching the wires, say	7 00
Boring the posts, seven holes in each, say	2 00
Plugging the holes in the posts, say	1 00
The whole probable cost,	$135 00
Or say 90 cts per pannel.	

The above estimates cannot be far from correct. It may be safely assumed, that the plank fence will cost at least fifty cents per pannel more than the wire. And it may also be safely assumed, I think, that, in point of strength, as a fence, the wire is, under all circumstances preferable, provided it be put up with proper care and judgment. Well stretched No. 9 wire, on firmly set posts, *not over twelve feet apart*, will surely present a very formidable, if not an irresistable barrier for all requisite purposes; driving wind and rain storms cannot impair it—it is not likely to get shackling and shabby—occupies but little space—obstructs no view or prospect, and is neat and pretty in appearance; and is far more likely to endure fifty years, than any wooden fence fifteen or twenty, with the usual patching, propping and *coaxing*, to which the latter soon becomes subject.

The strands must all be stretched perfectly taut and smooth; and except the top, which should by stapled on the the posts, must be passed through *inch* holes, and to prevent rust, must be immediately well coated with good oil paint, at least three coats. The plank is here estimated as being in the rough or unplained state, and of course, cannot be painted in that condition; and even if whitewashed, would obviously cost more to do it than to paint the wires. To put the plank on a fair footing with the wire, it should be planed and wel painted, which, if done, will increase the cost, altogether, to more than double that of the wire; and if not done, its durability must be very materially diminished. The ground poles will serve to prevent pigs from rooting under, and are essential in the wire fence, not only for that purpose, but to fill up the nine inch space from the ground up to the first or bottom wire, they may be dispensed with in the plank fence; though it is much better to use them.

In all the foregoing, I have had reference only to *outside* fencing—there are many inside lots on a farm that may be sufficiently fenced, where the larger animals only are to be restrained; by four, three, or in some cases even two strands of wire. The wires may be arranged on the posts in the following manner, beginning at the bottom:

1st wire nine inches from the ground—the space to be filled by a ground pole.
2d " 3 inches above the 1st.
3d " 3 inches above the 2d.
4th " 4 inches above the 3d.
5th " 6 inches above the 4th.
6th " 8 inches above the 5th.
7th " 10 inches above the 6th.
8th " 11 inches above the 7th, resting on the tops of the posts.

The first seven strands pass through the posts in inch holes. It is as easy to bore the holes of that size as

smaller—an inch hole is most convenient, to admit a small brush to paint the wire after it is stretched and secured; after which the holes are to be tightly plugged, to keep wet out, and to hold the wires firm, stiff and steady.

I hope it may not be many years before this great economy in fencing will prevail extensively, and especially on the prairies.

Your friend and servant GEO. C. SIBLEY.

Lindenworld, March 15, 1850.

Orchard Grass.

All agricultural works are not sufficientiently explicit in mentioning the time for sowing time for sowing grass-seeds. Orchard grass (time for sowing) is not mentioned in "Allens Guide to the Farm." It appears to me I have heard of its being sown in the fall. In the absence of practical information, I would sow at the time the plant would, if in a state of nature, propagate itself by shedding the seed.

A correspondent of Hanover Co., Va.

Reply by the Editor of the American Farmer.

Orchard grass may be sown in the Spring, at the same time of sowing Clover seed on grain fields, at any time between that and the last of May—or it may be sown in the autumn, at the time of sowing small grain. Much of the seed is injured by being kept too long in the stack before being thrashed out, and hence the cause of its frequently failing to come up—hence the cause of its growing in tufts, few and far between. We think upon the whole, that when sown in spring, it would be best to sow it with clover seed. In that case the intervals between the orchard tufts would be filled with clover.

Orchard grass seed before sowing, should be spread out on the barn or other floor, and moderately moistened with a watering pot; should then be heaped up and then let remain in pile one day; then there should be ashes or plaster strewn over or mixed though them, so as to separate the seed for sowing. This treatment encourages the germinating powers of the seed, and makes them come up many days earlier, and, in fact secures the coming up of many seeds which would otherwhise perish in the ground. For an upland meadow, infinitely preferable to timothy, the latter delighting in a moist soil.

To secure a good stand of plants, it will require two bushels of seed, per acre, when sown alone; when sown with clover seed, I bushel of orchard grass seed and 12 pounds of clover seed. The orchard grass is among the earliest grasses of spring, and the latest in autumn. When cut at the right time—just when it is coming into bloom—it makes an excellent hay—as a pasture grass it is reliable in all seasons—luxuriates in the shade, and sports at the intensity of the sun's heat. When mixed with clover, the latter is relieved of its power to hoven cattle. In a very strong ground, with a favorable exposure, it may be cut three times in a season—two cuttings my always be relied upon. As it flowers nearly about the same time as clover, it forms an excellent mixture with that grass.

Bees---Colton's Patent Bee-hive.

Wd are indebted to Mr. Stimpson, the owner of the right of Colton's Improved Patent Bee Hive for the States of Missouri and Iowa, [See advertisement on cover of Valley Farmer,] with a little manual, containing directions for making and using the hive, and also directions for managing bees in the mauner most profitable to their owner. We extract the following paragraphs upon "Swarming and Hiving:"

If you wish to manage your bees so as to make them most profitable, and also to increase your number of swarms let them stand, if convenient, facing eastwardly, and let the sun shine upon them in the morning, to warm the hives a little.

Your bees should never be suffered to stand where the sun will shine upon them in the heat of the day.—They should also at all times be kept dry, and well sheltered and protected from storms.

Whenever your bees swarm, have a convenient place provided for them to alight. A few bushes or saplings (spruce or hemlock is best) may be inserted loosely in the ground at some little distance from the bees, and also from each other, for this purpore. The bush or limb on which the bees have alighted may easily be removed to a table or bench. With the back of the hive resting on one end of the bench, with the front side of it raised about an inch and a half from the bench, supported by some blocks; then disengage the bees from the bush by a gentle shake, on to the bench in front of the hive, and they will rush under the hive and up the backside of the interior, to the top without the least difficulty. This business may all be completed in a few moments after the swarm comes out, without ringing the bell or rattling the tin pan.

Bees should be hived as soon as possible after they are well alighted, and before they have sent their pioneers to the woods to seek a place for their future residence; but if this cannot be done, let them be removed soon after hiving, that their messengers may not find them on their return.

In all cases it is better to remove the new swarm to the place where they are to stand, or where you wish them to remain through the season, soon after they are hived, as bees soon become accustomed to their location, and after becoming thus accustomed, are embarrassed by being removed.

It is sometimes the case that the queen bee, from some cause, is unable to fly when coming out with the new swarm, and falls to the ground, or alights upon something that comes in her way. In this case the swarm will return to the old hive, either before or after alighting. An eye should always be kept on this contingency. The queen may generally be found in this case, without much difficulty, from the fact that a few bees will be clustered around her, or flying about the place where she has fallen. If she is found in this condition, remove her carefully to the swarm to which she belongs.

There is little or no danger of bees flying to the woods, or of going back to the old hive, if the above points are observed.

In relation to the peculiar advantages of this Hive, the auther introduces the following remarks and certificates:

The foregoing directions and observations are the result of more than 25 years actual experience in the management of Bees. Any individual who will follow the directions thus briefly given, will find it much to his interest and profit to keep bees. Their owner is not compelled to work through all the summer and half the winter to provide for and supply their wants, as in the case of other animals. The bees collect their own

food, and at the same time store up three or four times as much as they need for themselves, as if to pay or reward their owner ten-fold for providing them with a good hive. The pleasure, amusement and instruction received from observing their operations would do this.

The profit we receive from our bees is 100 per cent. greater in this hive than any other we can use. We receive yearly from ten to twenty dollars from each swarm, and in some cases even forty dollars worth of extra honey, and a young swarm which generally fills the hive and one set of boxes, and sometimes more.

It is a great mystery to our neighbors, how or why we obtain so much extra honey from our bees. This is solved in the form of the hive we use. We contend that there never has been a hive invented and presented at the Patent office at Washington, D. C. that will AT ALL compare with this, in its adaptedness to the nature and habits of bees.

We find in managing our bees in the manner herein directed, in these hives, that we are not at all troubled with small weak smarms, but they are large and full of bees all through the season, which keeps them secure from robbers and the miller, or bee-moth. This hive is now in extensive use, and not a man who has used it but pronounced it to be the best he ever saw—so far as we have heard.

Numerous certificates and recommendations might be added, if necessary, but we feel confident that the simplicity and construction of the hive will satisfy any candid mind of its utility.

From Governor Slade.

I have examined a Model and Specification of Mr. AARON COLTON'S Improved Bee Hive, for which he has obtained Letters Patent. By an ingenious contrivance particularly adapted to the habits of bees, Mr. Colton leads them, as they descend in their work from the top of the hive to carry the work into the boxes attached to its sides. His hive seems to be a decided improvement on any that I have before seen.

WILLIAM SLADE.

Middlebury, Vt., January 20, 1846.

From Gov. Eaton.

Having examined a model of Mr. AARON COLTON'S Improved Bee Hive, for which he has a Patent, under date of December 31st, 1845, I am prepared to say, that I regard it as at once a very ingenious and useful contrivance. It is so fashioned, in accordance with the principles deduced from the well known habits of bees, as to stimulate these interesting little animals to the highest degree of industry, while at the same time it affords them ample room for their labors.

I have seen other ingenious contrivances in the shape of Bee Hives, which, from a lack of a perfect adaptedness in their mechanical construction, to the habits or the instincts of the animals for whose use, as a work-shop, they were intended, have failed of answering the purpose for which they were designed.

But in view of the correct principles which have governed in the construction of Colton's Hive, as well as the facility and convenience with which it can be managed, I believe it is superior to anything of the kind with which I am acquainted.

HORACE EATON.

Enosburgh, Jan. 30th, 1847.

The Special Committee appointed at the New York State Fair, at Auburn, Sept. 1846, in their report, speak as follows:

"The Committee unanimously recommend the award of the following premiums:

"To Aaron Colton, of Pittsfield, Vt., whose hive contains more advantages than any other with which we are acquainted, (1st premium,) $5 00.

"The simplicity of this hive, the pyramid form of the main chamber for the bees, and the application of the drawers for the pure honey, warrant us in cheerfully recommending this hive to the public."

ROSWELL G. PIERCE,
R. BURNELL,
AHIRA ELDRIDGE, } *Committee.*

It also had the first premium awarded on the improvement at the bottom of the hive, at the New York State Fair, held at Buffalo, in Sept. 1848, and has taken the first premium at all the County Fairs where it has been presented.

The Editor of the Valley Farmer has been authorised by the owner of the patent to dispose of family rights, which he will do on reasonable terms; he will also furnish single hives at the patentee's prices. Full directions for constructing the hive and managing the bees furnished in all cases. Address, "Ephraim Abbott, St. Louis, Mo."

Grain and Fruit in Oregon.

Winter wheat may be sown from July to March, and ripens earlier or later, according to the time of sowing. Red wheat takes the character of Spring wheat and ripens the same season, if sown in April. Peas sown broadcast, with or without oats, bring a product about equal to wheat. Apple and peach trees perfect abundant fruit annually. Apple trees two inches in diameter are loaded with fruit. We have eaten peaches from Gov. Abernethy's orchard, the trees were from the Mission garden. We have heard of no tame bearing plum, cherry, quince or nectarine trees in the country. Wild white plums, grapes, cherries, in some dortions of Oregon, but rarely found in this valley. A choice white plum in the Umpqua valley on a shrub, so small that their ripened fruit bends them to the ground. Several gentlemen of the immigration of 4 brought good selections of fruit trees.

One man brought some eighty varieties, comprising apple, pear, peach, plum, cherry, quince and grape; another man brought several thousanJs of a qetter selection, and lost but very few on the road. The berries are strwberries, dewberries, whortleberries, sallaberries, black and yellow raspberries, gooseberries, juneberries and cranberries.

The cranberries are good, but found in abundance only in the vicinity of the ocean; the june, salmon and gooseberries are not particularly desirable, the dew, salad and raspberries are choice and quite abundant, and the straw and whortleberris are extremely abundant and delicious. The season of ripe strawberries is from three to six weeks, and of whortleberries from six to ten weeks.

The whortleberry bush, except in the mountains, like the Umpqua plum shrub, is borne prostrate upon the grass, from the weight of its fruit. The wild strawberry is larger and better than any we have ever seen, except the large English strawberry. The whortleberry has more acidity than those of unshaded growth, growing east of the mountains. English gooseberries and currants are cultivated with success. —Oregon Spectator.

If you are too poor to own a garden, buy a tub and fill it with earth, and cultivate a rose bush or a dahlia bulb.

"We praise men for fighting," says a caustic writer, "and punish children for doing the same."

From Silliman's Journal.

Formation of Coal.

The immense beds of bituminous coal found in the valley of the Ohio fills the mind with wonder. Age after age, successive growths of plants springiug up iu the same region, were entombed beneath thick strata of shale, to the depth of more than a thousand feet; while beneath the whole lay the bed of an ocean, floored with foasil salt. Indications of coal are found at intervals, across the grsat valley, from the Allegheny to the Rocky mountains. It is founp near the surface in Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Missouri, and without doubt may be found beneath the extensive tertiary deposites which form the substratum of the gseat prairies in the central and northern of the Western States. As low down as New Madrid, on the Mississippi river, coal was thrown up from benealh the bed of the river, by the great earthquake of 1 1 —a sufficient proof of its continuation in the most depressed part of the great valley.

hat the coal is of vegetable origin, no one who has read much on the subject, or personally examined the coal beds, will deny. Time was when it was considered a peculiar mineral product, formed in the same manner and at the same time with the rocks that surround it. The product of its cnemical analysis, being altogether vegetable, and the artificial formation of coal from wood by Sir James Hall, have silenced all doubts on the subject. The only mystery now is, how such vast quanties of vegetable matter could be accumulated and grown on the spot where they ware buried. That they grew, in general, on the eurface now occupied by the coal, appears certain from the perfect state in which the most delicate leaves and stems are preserved. Had they been transported by currents of water, and especially from any distance, it is hardly possible that they should not have received more damage. The climate at that period must have been more warm and more humid than at present, as many of the plants are of those families which now grow only in tropical climates; and as the laws of natnre neuer change, this may be deemed a a correct inference.

Useful Knowledge in Agriculture.

Every practical man well knows that almost any kind of s il, using the term of soil as applying to single farms or small patches of territory, bears a certain kind of weeds, which tell, in language not to be misunderstood, whether the soil is stiff or light, wet or dry; whether it is easily or hardly tilled, what kind of husbandry is suited to it, what kind has been adopted. The lecturer could furnish a long list of the names of plants going to prove this. Now this kind of knowledge comes directly home to every practical farmer, and it can be showa in a brief manner in what view this knowledge is most desirable to him. The weeds determine the method of cultivation, from the ease or difficulty with which the farmer can remove or eradicate them. If they are annual, once cutting them down will effect the desired object; if biennial, they must be frequently cut down; once or twice doing it will not eradicate them. It is important, also, to know something of the nature of the seeds; whether they easily rot, or whether, being covered with a scaly coating, they will retain the principle of vitality for a long period. The farmer must also ascertain whether the weeds are those which propagate by their roots, because, if they do, merely tearing them from the soil will not destroy them.

Microscopic examination of plants is of the very greatest importance to the agriculturist.—Smut affects, it is well known, many varieties of our grain—how, this smut is proved to be a minute vegetable substance, and this proof is obtained only through a microscopic examination. Rye is affected with ergot—growing with it and being ground up with it, has caused, at times, the most alarming sickness, and it has resulted in death; it is now used as one of our most powerful medicines. It has been ascertained, recently, that the same fungus attaches itself to different varieties of grass, and springs up under much the same condition that ergot does upon the rye. It makes its appearance in cold, wet lands, or when an excessively wet season is followed by a hot, dry summer. When this grass grows, it has been long known that cattle will not thrive—in some instances it has been impossible to raise a single calf. Attention was called to the grass from a knowledge of the effects of ergot upon the system. Thus it will be seen how important is a minute inuestigation of matters pertaining to the art of agriculture. The remedy in the case would be to thoroughly drain the soil, and thus to kill off the rank, coarse vegetation. And this general remedy should be applied for the rust and mildew, though special remedies may be adapted to special localities. Drainage not only removes the water, but renders the air drier.—Prof. Johnson.

Within the past season we have frequently rode by large fields of growing peppermint, on the openings and prairies of St. Joseph county. We were aware that it was a somewhat large business with the farmers of that county, but not to the extent returned by the assessors of towns last year. The town of Florence has full 10 per cent. of the land cultivated in that town devoted to it. The returns gave 963 acres of peppermint, which realized 16,775 dollars. White Pigeon sent to market one thousand pounds of oil. In New York State it seems to be a settled opinion that low lands are the only ones for its culture. In St. Joseph county, uplands do equally as well.—Detroit Tribune.

Washing and Shearing Sheep,

AND PREPARING WOOL FOR MARKET.

Mr. H. S. Randall, of New York, well known for his experience in managing sheep, gives the following valuable information, in a work entitled "Sheep Husbandry at the South," recently published by Messrs Skinner and Son, Philadelphia.

Washing.—This is usually done at the north about the first of June. The climate of the Southern States would admit of its being done earlier. The rule should to wait until the water has acquired sufficient warmth for bathing and until cold rains and storms, and cold nights are no longer to be expected.

Sheep are usually washed, by our best flock-masters, in vats. A small stream is dammed up, and the water taken from it in an acqueduct, (formed by nailing boards together, and carried until sufficient fall is gained to have it pour down a couple of feet or more into the vat. The body of water, to do the work fast and well, should be considerable, say twenty four inches wide, and five or six deep; and the swifter the current the better. The vat should be, say three and a half feet deep, and large enough for three or four sheep to swim in it. A yard is built near the the vat, and a platform, from the gates of the yard extends to and encircles the vat on three sides. This keeps the washer from standing in the water, and makes it much easier to lift the sheep in and out. The yard should be large enough to hold the whole flock, if it does not exceed two hun-d dred; and bottom of it, as well as of a smaller yard, unless well sodded over, should be covered with coarse gravel, to avoid becoming muddy. If the same establishment is used by a number of flock-masters, gravelling will always be neccessary. As soon as the flock are confined in the yard, the lambs are all immediately caught out from among them, and set over the fence into a yard. This is to prevent their being trampled down as it often happens, by the old sheep, or straying off if let loose. A boy stands by the gate next to the vat, to open and shut it, (or the gate is drawn shut with a chain and weight,) and two men catching the sheep, as directed under the head of tagging, commence placing them in the water for the preparatory process, of "wetting," as soon as the water strikes through the wool, which occupies but an instant, the sheep is lifted out and let loose. The vat should of course, be in an enclosed field, to prevent their escape. The whole flock should thus be passed over, and again driven round where they should stand, say an hour, before washing commences. There is a large percentage of potash in the wool oil, which acts upon the dirt, independently of the favorable effect which would result from from thus soaking it for some time with water alone. If washed soon after a good shower, previous wetting might be dispensed with; and it is not absolutly neccessary, perhaps, in any case. If the water is warm enough to keep the sheep in it for the requisite period, they may be got clean by washing, without any previous wetting; though the snowy whiteness, which tells so on the purchaser, is not os often nor so perfectly attained in the latter way. Little time is saved by omitting "wetting," as it takes porportionably longer to wash, and it is not well for the sheep to be such a length of time in the water at once.

When the washing commences, two and sometimes four sheep are plunged into the vat. When four are put in, two soak while two are washed. But this should not be done unless the water is very warm, and the washers are uncommonly quick and expert. On the whole, it is rather an objectionable practice, for few animals suffer as much from the effects of a chill as sheep. If they have been previously wetted, it is wholly unneccessary. When the sheep are in the water, the two washers commence kneading the wool with their hands, about the breech, belly, &c., (the dirtier parts,) and they then continue to turn the sheep, so that the descending current of water can strike into all parts of the fleece. As soon as the sheep are clean, which may be known by the water running entirely clear, each washer seizes his own by the fore parts, plunges it deep into the vat, and taking advantage of the rebound, lifts it out, setting it gently down on its breech, on the platform. He then if the sheep is old or weak, (and it is well in all cases,) presses out some of the water from the wool, and, after submitting the sheep to a process presently to be adverted to, lets it go. There should be no mud about the vat, the earth not covered with sod being gravelled. Sheep should be kept on clean pastures from washing to shearing,—not where they can come in contact with the ground, burnt logs, &c.—and they should not be driven over dusty roads.

The washers should be strong and careful men, and protected, as they are, from any thing but the water running over the sides of the vat, they can labor several hours without inconvenience, and without drinking whiskey until they cease to know whether a sheep is well washed or well treated, as was the bad old fashion. Two hundred sheep will employ two good expert men not over half a day, and I have known this rate much exceeded.

It is a great object, not only as a matter of propriety and honesty, but even as a matter of profit, to get the wool clean and of a snowy whiteness. It will always sell for more than enough extra, in this condition, to offset against the increased labor and the diminution in weight.

Shearing.—Shearing is always done, in this country, on theshing-floors of our barns, sometimes on low platforms, but more commonly on the floor itself. The "bay" is divided by a temporary fence. one part being used for the yarding of the sheep, and the other for doing up the wool, &c. The enclosure should communicate, by a door, with another and larger yard outside of the barn. Both of these should be well littered down with straw, and fresh straw thrown on occasionly, to keep the sheep clean while shearing. No chaff or other substancas which will stick in the wool, should be used for this purpose. When the dew has dried off from the sheep, on the morning chosen for shearing a tion of the flock, sufficient to last the shearers halfpor

a day, is driven into the outside yard, and a convenient number into the bay. An assistant catches the sheep, lifts them off from the floor, as already directed, and delivers them at the door, through the "breastwork," to each shearer. The shearer, before taking the sheep, picks off any loose straws sticking to its wool, and if dung adheres to any of the feet, brushes it off with a little besom formed of twigs, hung up near the door for that purpose. The shearer then takes the sheep to his stand, and commences shearing.

The floor or tables used for shearing should be planed or worn perfectly smooth, so that they will not hold dirt or catch the wool. They should be thoroughly cleaned, and, if necessary, washed, preparatory to shearing. It is the catcher's business to keep the floor constantly swept, dung removed, &c. Having a new stand or place swept for the shearer who has just finished his sheep, he catches him another, and then clears up the stand previously occupied. He first lifts the fleece, gathers it up so that it shall not be torn or drawn asunder, and turning his arms so to invert it, (i. e., brings the roots of the wool downward,) deposits it on the folding table. He then picks up the 'firbs' (small loose locks) left on the floor, which are deposited in a basket or on a corner of the table. Lastly, he sweeps the spot clean, to be again occupied by the shearer. An active fellow will tend four shearers, and do up the fleeces. But he should not be hurried too much, or he cannot give sufficient time to doing up. A small boy or two are handy to pick up firbs, sweep, &c.

If there are any sheep, in the pen, dirty from purging or other causes, they should first be caught out, to prevent them from dirtying the others.

It is difficult, if not impossible, to give intelligible practical instructions, which would guide an entire novice in skilfully shearing a sheep. Practice is requisite. The following directions from the American Shepherd, are correct, and are as plain, perhaps, as they can be made:

"The shearer may place the sheep on that part of the floor assigned to him, resting on its rump, and himself in a posture with his right knee on a cushion, and the back of the animal resting against his left thigh. He grasps the shears about half way from the point to the bow, resting his thumb along the blade, which affords him better command of the points. He may then commence cutting the wool at the brisket, and proceeding downward, all upon the sides of the belly to the extremity of the ribs, the external sides of both thighs to the edges of the flanks; then back to the brisket, and thence upward, shearing the wool from the breast, front and both sides of the neck,—but not yet the back of it,—and also the poll or fore part, and top of the head. Now the 'jacket is opened' of the sheep, and its position and that of the shearer is changed, by being turned flat upon its side, one knee of the shearer resting on the cushion, and the other gently pressing the fore quarter of the animal, to prevent any struggling. He then resumes cutting upon the flank and rump, and thence onward to the head. Thus one side is complete.

The sheep is then turned on the other side,—in doing which, great care is required to prevent the fleece from being torn—and the shearer acts as upon the other, which finishes. He must then take his sheep near to the door, through which it is to pass out, and neatly trim the legs, and leave not a solitary lock any where, as a harbor for ticks. It is absolutely neccesary for him to remove from his stand, otherwise the useless stuff from the legs become intermingled with the fleece-wool. In the use of the shears, let the blades be laid on flat to the skin as possible, not lower the points too much, nor cut more than from one to two inches at a clip, frequently not so much, depending on the part and compactness of the wool."

In addition to the above, I would remark, that the wool should be cut off as close as conveniently practicable, and even. It may be cut too close, so that the sheep can scarcely avoid "sun-scald," but this is very unusual. If the wool is left ridgy and uneven, it betrays that want of workmanship which is so distasteful to every farmer.* Great care should be taken, not to cut the wool twice in two, as inexperienced shearers are apt to do. It is done by cutting too far from the point of the shears, and suffering the points to get too much elevated. Every time the shears are pushed forward, the wool before cut off by the points, say a quarter or three-eights of an inch from the hide, is again severed. To keep the fleece entire,—so important to its good appearance when done up, (and therefore to its salableness,) it is very essential that the sheep be held easily for itself, so that it will not struggle violently. To hold it still by main strength, no man can do, and shear it well. The posture of the shearer should be such, that the sheep is actually confined to its position, so that it is unable to start up suddenly and tear its fleece; but it should not be confined there by severe pressure or force, or it will be constantly kicking and struggling. Heavy-handed, careless men, therefore, always complain of getting the most troublesome sheep. The neck, for example may be confined to the floor, by placing it between the toe and knee of the leg, on which the shearer kneels; but the lazy or brutal shearer who lets his leg rest directly on the neck, soon provokes that struggle which the animal is obliged to make to free itself from severe pain, and even perhaps, to draw its breath.

Good shearers will shear, on the average, twenty-five Merinos per day; and a new beginner should not attempt to exceed from one third to one half that number. It is the last process in the world which should be hurried, as the shearer will soon leave more than enough wool on his sheep to pay for his day's wages.

It has been mentioned, that but enough sheep should be yarded at once for half a day's shearing. The reason for this is, that they shear much more easily, and there is less liability of cutting the skin, when they are distended with food, than when their bellies become flabby and collapsed for want of it. This precaution

* I hold that a man is not half a farmer who has not a dash of the æsthetic mixed up with his utilitariani m. Profit should not often be sacrificed to appearances; but where they are strictly compatible, he who disregards the latter betrays a sordid and uncultivated mind.

however is often, necessarily omitted in showery weather. It is very convenient to have the outside pen, which communicates with the "bay," covered. On my farm, it is one of the regular sheep-houses. If it is showery over night, or showers come up on the day of shearing, a couple of hundred sheep may be run in and kept dry. And then can be left out to feed occasionally during the day, on short grass. If let out in long, wet grass, their bellies will become wetted. Wool ought not to be sheared, and must not be done up, with any water in it.

Sacking Wool.—When the wool is sold, or when it must be sent away to find a market, it is put up in bales nine feet long, formed of forty inch "burlaps." The mouth of the sack is sewed with twine, round a strong hoop, (rivetted together with iron, and kept for the purpose,) and the body of it let down through a circular apertuue in the floor of the wool-room.* The hoop rests on the edge of the aperture, and the sack swings clear of the floor beneath. A man enters the sack, and another passes the fleece down to him. After covering the bottom with a layer, he places a fleece in the centre, and forces down others around it, and so on to the top, which is then sewed up. Each fleece should be placed regularly with the hands, and then stamped down as compactly as possible, so that the bale, when completed, shall be hard and well fitted in every part. The bulk of a given weight of wool will be greatly affected by the care with which this process is performed.

Those who do not expect buyers to come and look at their wool, sack it immediately after shearing. A temporary scaffolding is erected near the wool, as deposited by the tier, and one man tosses up fleeces to the second, who catches them, and passes them down to the man in the sack. A light frame, to suspend the sack, and, part way up it, a standing place for the catcher, would be a convenient appendage to the establishment of a wool-grower who does not store his wool in a wool-room. With a set of stairs up to his midway standing place, an active fellow would keep the treader supplied without any assistance.

* It is to secure this convenience that the wool room is best placed on the second floor.

From the Working Farmer.

Improved Farming Utensils.

We are ashamed to acknowledge that while mechanics and others are daily adopting the use of labor-saving machinery of all kinds, the farmers alone, who most need economical reduction in labor, remain incredulous and perverse in using the tools of the olden time, instead of adopting those which would reduce their labor and increase their profit. Many farms within fifty miles of New York, are without a cultivator, and although it has been clearly proved that this instrument in many cases will do the work with a single horse, of forty men with hoes, still it is far from being in general use, and even many of our market gardeners continue to use the hand hoe for such crops as might be equally well cultivated by the cultivator, and at much less expense. Even the hand cultivator will enable one man to perform the work of twenty with hoes, and but few know the instrument by name.

How few farmers have *rollers*, and still in many soils this simple and expeditions instrument is capable, if used at proper times, of rendering the soil pulverulent, and of leaving the surface of lands to be mowed, level, and less liable to attacks of insects, &c.

The use of the hand hoe instead of the plow, in some parts of our southern country, is not more ridiculous than the use of the hand flail instead of the threshing mill in the north, and still we hear the sound of the flail in almost every county in New York and New Jersey. Our larger class of farmers should not even be content with moving the thrashing machine by horse power; many could apply water power with but slight cost, while many others who have large quantities of fuel which it is desirable to transform into ashes, could use steam with decided profit, In Holland, where every economy is resorted to, steam engines are in great use by agriculturists, the waste steam after supplying power for thrashing, grinding, &c., being then used for cooking food for cattle, hogs, &c. In many localities peat ashes are wanted, draining tiles are to be burned, grain to be ground, hay, straw, and corn stalks to be cut, heat is required to assist manure heaps in decomposition, or to keep up the temperature of hot beds, hot houses, graperies, &c., &c., all, or any of which, could be accomplished by a small steam engine and properly constructed boiler stack, and at much less cost than when otherwhise performed. Such application of steam however, is not applicable to small farms, but our large operators should look to such uses of this cheap power. Pumps may be worked for irrigating lands during drought, and indeed much labor which is now performed by man or horse, could be done by steam at comparitively small expense. In Scotland, many of the large farms have steam engines—and so general is the use of steam engines among the English farmers, that we now have before us the copy of a debate before the London Farmer's Club, on the use of steam, in which we find remarks by members judiciously made, on all the various kinds of engines, and their comparative economy; and these remarks give evidence that the steam engine is in such common use among farmers there, that you could readily mistake their remarks for those of professed engineers, so thoroughly do they seem to be acquainted with the details, &c.

The use of drill machines for planting, is being more generally adopted, and thus the seed is sown or planted in an equitable manner all over the field, and at the same depth, always yielding a larger crop and of more regular quality, but still, despite the acknowledged usefulness of this instrument, more than three quarters of our grain crops are planted without the use of this machine. Even the ordinary drill barrow, worked by hand, will, with many crops, save half the expense of labor in their culture. Instead of turnips, carrots, parsnips, or even corn, peas, beans, &c., being planted by hand and sometimes broadcast, they may, by the use

of the drill barrow, be sown in drills equi-distant apart, and with regularity of distance and depth in the drill. Thus the spaces between the drills being regular, the weeds can be kept down by the use of the horse or hand cultivator, instead of the tedious and expensive use of the hand hoe—the soil by this cheap and rapidly acting cultivator, may be kept continually loose and in good order—indeed, the best resnlts in modern farming cannot be arrived at with s fficient economy, without the use of this instrument.

The use of the small sub-soil plow for cultivating corn, should not be overlooked, for with this instrument and a proper cultivator, corn may be worked for half the expense usually applied to it.

When the corn is about 4 or 5 inches high or less, run the sub-soil plow, with its flat side toward the corn and a few inches from it to full depth, and the same on the other side of the row. This will not disturb the plant, but will leave the adjacent soil most thoroughly disturbed to a great depth, ready to recieve moisture and atmospheric influences, and enabling the corn roots as fast as formed, to run down in this sub-soil cut, receiving all the portions of manure held in solution, which will all incline toward this cut. The cultivator should then be run in the broad space between the rows to disintegrate the surface, and the two rear theeth may be formed like small plow-shares, to throw earth towards the hills or ridges—these teeth by being changed, placing the one on the right in place of the one on the left, will take the soil from the hills when required. Corn so tilled, will need little or no hoeing, and our word for it, the soil will then have been more disturbed than by ten times the cost of labor with the common hand hoe.

From the Ohio Cultivator.

What Constitutes a Good Farmer?

He is a good farmer that does all his farming work in a proper time, and in a thorough manner.

But then it might be asked, what is a farmer's work? what constitutes a proper time? snd when is it executed in a thorough manner?

I shall answer these questions as they stand in order. 1st, what is the work of a farmer, as pertaining to his agricultural operations?

Answer: They are 1st, fencing, or other modes of inclosure; 2d, draining, where necessary; 3d, cultivation, or, in other words, grubbing, plowing and hoeing; 4th, housing and securing crops; 5th, making and applying manures; 6th, care of stock; 7th, attention to his garden, dwelling-house, and yard. These are the principal duties of a famer. There are many others, to be sure, but they are of secondary importance.

First, then, of Fencing. This item of farming is of primary importance. Upon it depends whether the farmer shall reap any of the profits of his labor, and be at peace with his neighbors. The sole object of fencing is to secure the crop or stock; and if it be of a kind that does not answer that purpose, it is no better than none. Bad fences constitute a standing grievance to the owner and all his neighbors. They make breachy stock and engender strife. Notwithstanding so much depends upon fencing, yet many farmers seem not to know the importance of it. They are more neglectful on this score than on any other, excepting, perhaps, *manure.*

Respecting fences, they should be made in the right place, big enough, high enough, strong enough, close enough, and as straight as possible. Hight, strength, closeness and direction are the essentials of a fence. Fences should be of sufficient hight and closeness, or they answer no good purpose. They should be as straight as practicable in order to make as few materials do as possible, thereby saving time, labor, and timber.

In close connection with the subject, I will remark that many farmers have too much fencing—more than is neccessary. I am acquainted with more than one farm on which I can stand near the barn, and look over from four to six fences in one direction, within less than 40 rods of distance. This is not only not economy, but an absolute waste of three most important items, time, labor and timber, either of them equivalent to cash.

Again: whilst on this head, I will submit a remark as to the shape of fields. They are usually parallelograms or oblong squars. This fact is another instance of the want of economy, or information, or perhaps of both. A very little consideration would teach a man that, if he would enclose as much land as possible, with the fewest rails, in one lot, the shape must be circular. If more than one lot be required, the shape may be a square.

Having said so much of fencing, I will just sum it up. Fences, then, should be as straight as possible to save labor, time and timber. They should be high enough, strong enough, and close enough to secure the enclosed crop, and to preserve the peace and good fellowship of the neighborhood.

Juvenis.

Highland, Ohio, March, 1850

The Fever for Gold.—One day last week, about $6,000 of the new gold coin was recieved in this village, fresh from the mint. This was the gross earnings of three individuals lately returned from a year's voyage to California. Their less fortunate associates were left behind to enjoy as they could their various health and fortune—the poorest and sickest buoyed up by that ever blessed hope, which the philosophic Hume said was worth a thousand pounds a year! The sight of these money bags, for the time being turned every head—nothing was talked of, thought of or dreamed of, but fitting out or setting out for the El dorado! Woe to that croaker who dared to speak of the uncertainty of the digger's gains, the certainty of privation and sickness and suffering, as every eye was blind, every ear deaf, and the mind impassive to all the hindrances and positive evils that stood in the way of the glittering pile? All accounts agree that from the east, the north, the south, and the far west, at this time the migrating army of gold diggers is greater than ever; still greater, perhaps, than the host of crusaders that followed Peter the hermit into the holy land!—*Genesee Farmer.*

From the Ohio Cultivator.

Letter to Maggie and Elizabeth.

Dear Nieces,—

It affords me great pleasure to form so many agreeable acquaintances among my numerous relatives. I know that a peep at your fair young faces would do my eyes good, but it affords me solid gratification to meet these sweet emanations from your precious spirits. It is like looking at the inside of a book without having seen the style of its binding. I am willing to trust, for that, to the popular theory, that mind moulds matter after its own true likeness. I have, then, your daguerreotypes before me—two sensible, healthy looking girls, with the bloom of the peach upon your cheeks, the brilliant coral color staining your lips, and the sun-flash of the soul beaming from your eyes. Healthy toil has given ease and elasticity to your motions, and a feeling of spontaneous good will to all; and a desire of further advancing on the highway of usefulness, has thrown a grace of earnestness and benevolence over your manners, like a charming veil, giving its tone and grace without concealing the features that it covers. There now—don't accuse me of flattery; for if the likeness is not true, it ought to be, and it is yourselves that are to blame, not the artist.

Maggie talks about birds and flowers, and wishes to know if I love them. Well, my dear, you shall be answered. I do love and admire them, but not as some persons do. I could make their care and tendance the recreation of my life, but never its entire business. God knew that we should grow weary and weak if we saw before us nothing but the silent green earth, with its grain, and grass, and fruits, so he sent down both the embodiment of beauty and harmony to cheer us in our labors. Children's hearts, too, he would not leave utterly without companionship. The language of the old and careworn would grate too harshly across the musical chords of their tender spirits, so he sent the song birds down to sing their gentle lullaby to the too wakeful passions. Who that has trodden the beaten road of life half round the circumference of its sphere, that cannot look back and listen to the wild bird's song, that still trills across the keys of the spirit, the same that he listened to when thought and memory first began to make their indellible records?

I can look through the long, dim isles, through which I have wandered, and amid the swelling organ tones that echo through them, and the artist music that has won world-wide renown, I hear ever and anon the sweet thrill of the bob-o-link, richer than pipe or harp or organ. I am a child again, standing at the chamber window and looking down at the beautiful songsters, as they alight on the long waving boughs of the cherry trees, and sing responsive tones which my childish fancy loved to translate into sweetly uttered thoughts, If the old ceiling still remains, I could ace many a canto, scratched with a pen in unintelligible hieroglyphics.

I remember, too, the ministration of flowers. The first wild flower that I plucked in spring, one of my school-mates declared wore the hue of some beautiful present that I should receive in the course of the season, and it proved as correct an omen as the flight of birds did to the ancients. The laurel chaplets with which we used to dec our heads, were brighter than poets wreath—they were themselves the embodiment of poetry. I often read the beautiful allegories of the past, and admire the skill with which Fancy uses the magic pencil, but I never look out upon the flower-ennameled earth, without seeing richer poetic imagery than the richest fancy could devise. All that is beautifut in the soul, finds its appropriate metaphor. Perhaps we may be too unlearned to transtate it, but if we look we shall see it there among the floral sisterhood.

Now, my dear girls, you, who have access to all these things daily—who hold intimate converse with nature in her "at home" attire, take it upon you to hint that city girls, who above all things envy your country freedom, may be a little starched and affected. Poor children! their hearts and their tastes have been half starved between brick walls and dusty pavements, and half of them do not know a hundredth part as much about affectation as you do. If they were to come into the country, they would bound over the green fresh grass like gazelles; they would never stop to prim and try to shake off nature, as you would if you were to go to a city. This is what I think of the matter. Different circumstances of life have given you dissimilar styles of manners, and when you meet them, you feel that in your attempts to be like them you are constrained and affected, and of course attribute the same to them.

Now if you come to the city to visit me, as I hope you will, just be sweet country girls, and feel that, in that alone, is real dignity for you. And if you sing to me, sing like the wild bird or the gushing stream—city girls will love you for it, even though they themselves, like their canary birds, only sing as their teachers taught. You see, after all, you will be about alike. The murmuring winds, the gushing fountains, the song of birds, have been your teachers; theirs the rules of masters, more artistic, it is true, but further removed from the great fountain of all true harmony.

Now, girls, do not take my letters as too severe. I only wish you to be most charitable in all things, and especially do I desire to cultivate your acquaintance through these pleasant communications. Your affectionate

Aunt Patience.

HORTICULTURE.

St. Louis Horticultural Society.

EXHIBITIONS AND PREMIUMS FOR 1850.

At the meeting of the St. Louis Horticultural Society, held March 2, 1850, it was voted that there shall be two exhibitions of the Society the present year, as follows:

Spring Exhibition, May 22.

Fall Exhibition, August 21.

The following list of Premiums to be awarded during 1850, was agreed upon:

FLOWERS.

For the largest assortment of best specimens of Green House Plants, $10 at each exhibition,	$20
Second best do. $5 each exhibition,	10
Best display of Hardy roses, through the season,	2
Best display of monthly roses, through the season,	2
Best display of Annuals, through the season,	2
Best display of Perennials through the season,	2
Best collection of Dahlias, at the Fall Exhibition,	3
Best do do do do	2
Best Parlor Bouquet, $2 at each exhibition,	4
Best Hand Bouquet, $1 at each exhibition,	2
Best ornamental design of Cut Flowers, $2 at each exhibition,	4

FRUITS.

Best four bunches Foreign Grapes, at Fall Exhibition,	3
Best collection of Native Grapes, not less than four bunches of each variety, at Fall exhibition,	3
Best collection of Apples, six of each variety, at Fall exhibition,	5
Best display of Summer Apples, at monthly meetings,	3
Best display of Winter Apples, at monthly meetings,	3
Best collection of Peaches, at Fall Exhibition,	5
Best display of Summer do at monthly meetings,	3
Best collection of Pears, not less than six of each variety, at Fall exhibition,	3
Best collection of Quinces, not less than six of each variety, at Fall exhibition,	2
Best quart of Currants,	2
Best display of Strawberries, one quart of each variety,	2
Best single quart of Strawberries,	1
Best pint of Cherries,	2
Best quart of Plums,	2
Best pint of Gooseberries,	2
Best quart of Raspberries,	2
Best quart of Apricots,	2
Best quart of Nectarines,	1

WINE.

Best bottle,	2

VEGETABLES.

Best six stalks of Cellery, Fall exhibition'			1
Best six stalks Rhubarb, Spring		do	1
Best four bunches Asparagus,	do	do	1
Best two heads Cabbage, Fall		do	1
Best 4 heads Cauliflower,	do	do	1
Best half peck Tomatoes,	do	do	1
Best half peck Onions,	do	do	1
Best 4 Egg Plants,	do	do	1
Best 4 Cucumbers,	Spring	do	1
Best 6 heads Lettuce,	do	do	1
Best 6 Beets,	Fall	do	1
Best 6 Parsnips,	do	do	1
Best 6 Turnips,	do	do	1
Best half peck Potatoes,	do	do	1
Best half peck sweet do	do	do	1
Best collection of Herbs,	do	do	1
Best dish of Lima Beans,	do	do	1
Best dish of Snap do	do	do	1
Best dish of Okra,	do	do	1
Best 6 Carrots,	do	do	1
Any new variety of Vegetable, worthy of cultivation, and an addition to the table,			1

RULES.

The following rules for the spring and fall exhibitions, and the government of exhibitors and the committees in awarding premiums have been adopted:

I. All persons, whether members of the Society or not, are invited to offer samples in competition for premiums, but no member shall receive a premium who shall not have paid his dues to the Society.

II. No premium will be awarded in cases where there is no competition, unless, in the opinion of the committee, the articles are worthy of it.

III. The articles offered in competition must be the production of the State of Missouri or of the State of Illinois, and the result of the cultivation of the person exhibiting the same.

IV. Every article, so far as it is possible, must be accompanied by its proper name, and that of its producer; and the latter shall state (if required by the committee,) in a satisfactory manner, any peculiarity of soil, situation or treatment, which attended the production.

V. No Flower, Plant, Fruit, or Vegetable, shall be entitled to a premium, unless it possesses points of superiority; and the committee have the discretionary power of witholding prizes, if, in their opinion, the articles exhibited do not merit them.

VI. Every person exhibiting a fruit for a name, will be required to accompany the same with a statement of its origin or discovery, and its local appellation.

VII. The several standing committees will be the judges of, and will be expected to report upon, the articles offered in their respective departments; and they will, therefore, be required to be present at each monthly exhibition, for the purpose of examining the articles shown.

VIII. All articles submitted for prizes, must be placed on the stand by 12, M., and, after they are arranged, will be under the exclusive charge of the committee, until the close of the exhibition.

Grape Cuttings.—The Michigan Farmer states that Elijah Buck, a successful cultivator, has met with uniform failure in raising grapes from cuttings in the usual way of placing them perpendicular or obliquely in the soil, not one in ten treated thus ever showed signs of growth. A different mode was afterwards adopted, by placing the cutting horizontally just beneath the surface. Not one in fifty failed.

Hardy Grapes in Maine.—Alex. Johnston, of Wiscasset, states in Hovey's Magazine that the Isabella is the only variety of American grapes that will succeed in that severe climate. Even that requires ample protection in winter. One vine, three and a half inches in diameter at the ground, and which had borne finely, had been killed by leaving it exposed. The Catawba is unfitted for that region.

Apple Trees in Illinois.—The fertile soil, hot summers, and severe winters of a large portion of the western states, render the culture of some kinds, of fruit more difficult than at the east. It appears to be well

established that apple trees budded and grafted on strong full sized, entire roots, are more hardy than those raised by root-grafting as commonly practiced. Prof. Turner, of Illinois College, states in the Horticulturist, that "60 root-grafted trees, 100 grafted on full seedling roots, and 60 budded near the ground," were transplanted under precisely similar circumstances in similar soil. In the following year, only six root-grafted trees were alive; on the other hand, all the budded trees but six were living, as well as all the trees grafted on whole seedling roots.

Winter Pears.—Hovey says, "our correspondont Mr. Washburn, of Plymouth, informs us that he has just sold the last of his Easte Beurre pears, the produce of one dwarf tree. They brought him the handsome sum of twenty dollars; and less than a bushel of fruit. He finds no difficulty whatever in ripening the pears; his practice is to let the fruit hang on the tree as late as possible, even after two or three frosts, if they are not likely to be very severe. Each pear is wrapped in double papers, and kept at an even temperature in a cool room, until wanted for use; they are then brought into a warmer temperature, where in the course of a fortnight they begin to change color, and soon become fit for cooking. In this way they may be ripened off in succession from the middle of December to the middle of March."

Rotting of Grapes.—At the April meeting of the St. Louis Horticultural Society, Mr. E. Haren stated that he had been making sundry experiments with a view of ascertaining the cause and cure of the rot which so much affects the ripening grapes. He stated that he was satisfied that the trouble was caused by a superabundance of water about the roots of the vine. He was confirmed in this opinion on finding that the outside rows of his vineyard, when in situations favorable to the drying and drainage of the earth at the roots, were less affected by rot than those more shaded. He intended to try the effect of covering the ridges, and for this purpose would make use of a few thousand feet of plank. The ground was a rich mould soil, on a clay subsoil.

Mr. Allen, President, thought that covered drains might be constructed, which would answer a better purpose. He had made a dry pathway through a piece of wet ground, by digging a trench, which was filled with coarse rubbish, and covered with gravel.

It was stated by several members that it was only in wet seasons that their grapes were affected by rot.

Manure for Fruit Trees.—The Horticulturist reccommends, as one of the best manures for fruit trees, &c., the following:—Pour *brine*, (*old* brine is as good as any) on fresh lime till slacked to a powder. Then make a heap of the fallen leaves of the trees, by sprinkling over every layer of leaves a portion of this compound of lime and salt, at the rate of four bushels to a cord of leaves. In a few weeks it will be ready for use The proportion of the salt to the lime is about as one to four. *Grape* leaves, thus treated, are reccommended as best for grapes; peach leaves for peach trees, &c.

Dried Strawberries.—A London paper states an experiment in drying strawberries by, attaching threads to their stalks, after a little a little over-ripe, and hanging up to dry. The result is stated to be entirely satisfactory, 'that sweet, refreshing acid, peculiar to the strawberry, being in full perfection,—the flavor of the fruit without any watery taste, delicious, and dissolving in the mouth as slowly as a lozenge.'

Pleasures of Gardening.—No one can be truly said to live, who has not a garden. None but those who have enjoyed it can appreciate the satisfaction, the luxury, of sitting down to a table spread with the fruit of one's own planting and culture. A bunch of radishes, a few heads of lettuce; taken from the garden, of a summer's morning, for breakfast, or a mess of green peas or sweet corn, is quite a different affair from the same articles brought in large qnantities from market in a dying condition, to be put in the celler for use. And a plate of strawberries or raspberries lose none of their peculiar flavor by passing directly from the border to the cream, without being jolted about in baskets until they have lost all form and comeliness. And yet how manv in the smaller cities and villages of our country, possessing every facility for a garden, either through indolence or gnorance, are deprived of this source of comfort! And how many farmers, with enough land lying waste to furnish them with most of the luxuries of life, are content to plod on in the even tenor of their way, never raising their tastes above the "pork and beans" of their fathers.

Cultivation of the Gooseberry.

Much has been said and written concerning the Gooseberry, the cause of its disease, the mildew and its cure. Strong soap suds, and lye made of potash, have been recommended, both of which are useful in keeping the moss from the trees, and giving them a healthy appearance; but the only effectual remedy for the blight upon the berry, that I know of, is transplanting. It had been the practice of my late husband, for the last eighteen years of his life, to transplant one third of his gooseberry trees annually. The first thing done in a garden, as soon as the frost was out of the ground in the spring, was to prepare the ground very rich, (as no other shrub requires, or will even bear, so much manure as the gooseberry,) take up the trees designed for transplanting, take off the shoots that had grown up around the trunk, and the trees planted out in the newly-prepared gronnd; the trees were set as near as possible the same depth that they had stood before, and when the holes were partly filled with earth, water poured in to settle it closely around the roots; then filled up, and the earth pressed down

firm with the feet. If the work was well done the fruit was pretty good the first year, splendid the second, and by the third it generally began to wane; but by adhering to the above-named plan, he was able to have an annual supply of perfect and delicious fruit. He had some old trees that had been transplanted as many as eight times, and it had become so much of a matter of course, that they seemed to have prepared for it; their roots had become interwoven like mats, and so flat on the bottom, that when taken out of the ground they would stand erect upon its surface without support. If the shoots could be taken off with a little root attached, they would live, and make new trees, if well planted out.

As the goosebery thrives best in moist situations and climates, and as a few hours exposure to the hot midday sun, in our climate, frequently scorches the fruit so as to make it drop from the tree, or become insipid, shaded situations are recommended; the general remark is, that the shade of buildings or fences are preferable; but I take the liberty to press the subject, that it should always be an artificial shade, if any—for in dry seasons, large trees, whose roots strike deep into the earth, will of course absord all the moisture, and leave the more feeble shrubs in their neighborhood to perish.—[Mrs. Noyes Darling, in N. E. Farmer.

How to make Soap.

The following receipts are given in answer to the request in our last. They have been published in substance before, in our columns:—

Cold Soap.—Take 20 pounds of potash and dissolve it in 25 gallons cold soft water, (an iron kettle is the best to put it in.) It will take five or six days to dissolve, unless the weather is pretty warm. When dissolved take twenty pounds of clean grease, or rough grease that will make that weight, and cleanse it with white ley, then strain it through a sieve or cullender into the soap barrel, and the potash ley, being careful not to disturb the sediment; then soak the sediment of the potash with a few gallons more soft water, and pour it into the barrel, so as to save all the strength of the potash.

It will not require over three days time to make a barrel of excellent soap by this method.

In regard to the best time for making soap, the month of April is as good as any; or just before hot weather commences; as all rough grease must then be looked after, or the flies will take the matter into their hands.

Another Method.—Put lime in the bottom of your leach; say one bushel to ten of ashes; (If you saturate your ashes with hot water two or three days before running off your ley, you will obtain the strength much better;) run off your ley, and have it clean and strong enough to bear an egg the bigness of a dime above the surface; put it into your barrel or tub cold, and for one barrel melt and turn in about thirty pounds of clean grease or laid; and stir it well together, and stir frequently for three or four days, and you will have "nice" white smelling soap, one gallon of which will be worth more than two gallons of the black rank soap made by boiling ley, bones, rinds, and scraps altogether.

Boiled Soap.—To begin the soap;—put three or four pounds of fat, or grease into a large kettle over a brisk fire, and melt it, stirring it well with a stick. When the fat has melted, pour in two or three gallons of strong ley, gradually stirring it well, (and always the one way) till the fat and ley are thoroughly mixed. Then moderate the fire, and boil it slowly and steadily, if it boils too hard it will go over. As it boils continue to fill it up with ley till the soap becomes of a proper consistency. If in boiling the fat disappears entirely from the top, add more fat. If there should happen to be too much fat it can be skimmed off when the soap is cold. Try the soap by taking out some on a dish, and setting it in the open air. It should be of a bright brown color, and clear and thick as jelly when cold. After having boiled several hours, if it still remains liquid, in trying it in a plate, add a little cold water to what you are cooling for the purpose of making jelly. You will then be able to ascertain how much cold water must be added to that in kettle, for the same purpose, it being that the ley is too strong. It is an improvement, to throw in a pound or two of rosin, while the soap is boiling, as it prevents the soap from eating the hands when washing with it.—When it becomes a thick jelley and no grease appears about it, if you wish to make hard soap, stir fine salt into it, allowing one pint of salt to three gallons of soap. Let it boil for ten minutes after the salt is in, then try the soap by taking out a small portion and setting it to cool. If it does not seem sufficiently stiff, or likely to harden well, add more salt and give it another boil up. Then take the soap out of the kettle and put it in tubs to cool; when it becomes quite hard cut it out and lay it on boards to cool in the shade.—*Ohio Cult.*

Which is the best Market.—Within the last few weeks several bost loads of wheat and flour have been received here from Chicago, via Illinois and Michigan Canal.

Camel Conveyance to California.—The New York Herald says, that Messrs. Sands & Howes the well known and enterprising circus proprietors, are about to establist an overland line to California with Camels which is to leave Independence, Missouri direct for San Francisco, early in June. These gentlemen have already thirty-one camels in this country, and the brig Cathering, Capt. Gordon, now on her passage from Algiers to New Orleans, has on board twenty two more making in all all fifty-three, most of which have been selected with care as broed steck. We are told that a caravan of twenty-five or more, will leave each point once a month and continue through the year. Succesr to this new enterprise and its projectors, say we.

Mr. Elihu Burritt says, in the Christian Citizen, that the Anglo Saxon race numbers sixty millions of human beings. He estimates that if no great physical revolution supervenes to check its propogation, that in less than one hundred and fifty years, it will number eight hundred million of souls, all speaking the same language centered to the same literature and religeon, and exhibiting all inherent and inalienable characteristics."

Fictions for Children.

We seldom see a moral story for juvenile readers, of which we could not express unqualified approbation, with the occasional exception of such passages as imply theological views differing from our own. There is hardly an author in this department, whom standing alone, we should not thank as a benefactor of the rising generation. But we are alarmed at the degree to which the press teems with this kind of literature. It threatens to exclude every thing else from our Sunday school libraries and our children's book-shelves. It creates and sustains an appetite which rejects less highly seasoned food. When we were young biography and history, the narrative portions of the bible, and works illustrative of scriptural scenes and manners, were found suffciently interesting to chain the attention of the young reader, and when we were now and then treated with a story from "Berquin's Children's Friend," or one of Miss Edgworth's "Moral Tales," it was like the game at ball during the school recess, or a dessert after a substantial dinner. We supposed the acquisition of knowledge the chief object of our reading, and expected to learn from books. What was our satisfying fare, our children will not touch. The new year enriches the same young group with sundry volume of fairy tales, and with Green-wood's Lives of the Apostles. At the end of a week not a fairy tale remained unread—at the end of a month, acquaiutance has not been made with a single Apostle. We complain of thois affluence of fiction, first on account of its affluence, as rendering it hardly possible for us to induce our children to make their leisure hours available towards the purposes of their intellectual education. We complain of it also, because most of these tales, however good, are adapted to give uureal views of life and to create false expectations. The philosophical fathers, the didactic mothers, the all-knowing and all-explaining aunts of the story book, are such parents as we never are—such sisters as we never have and could not tolerate if we had them. The children, so sanctimonious in speech, so precise in conduct, so prematurely senile and anile, are a monstrus brood such as can grow up in no matter-of-fact New England family and our children, however excellent, are prone to look upon this peculiar type of goodness as something which they can never approach, but which they are blameworthy for not emulating. They are perplexed by the perpetual discrepancies between the style of character iuto which they can grow, and the artificial book ideal, which they can admire only at an awful distance.

Then too full temporal retribution is is in general the law of the story. The good child gets all the sugar plums—the naughty boy is caught in the thunder-storm, lost in the woods, or upset in the boat. When the children grow up, the choicest gifts of Providence fall into the lap of the pattern boy and girl, while the wayward or disobedient child begs his bread, or is locked up in prison for stealing it. The devourer of these fictions is illy prepared to recognise the reverse of such pictures in the world around him, to learn that vice and outward prosperity often co-exist, and that very many "of whom the world is not worthy," are to be found in straitened neglected walks of life, in the lowliest homes, on beds of chronic torture, in the most unattractive forms, garbs, and environments. The lesson involved in the words, "God having provided some better thing," for those who serve him in sincerity, is made doubly hard to learn and to remember by the leaven of the Sadducees which is so thoroughly kneaded into the fictions of which we speak, and which makes the story perfect without leaving any room for the compensations of the life to come.

We object to the multitude of these fictions also, because they generate for the child's after life an exclusive taste for fictitious literature. We fear that our Sunday school libraries are training up a race of insatiable novel readers. We have seen in not a few instances the ready transition from them to the circulating library, and have known young people, who, up to a certain age, have greedily read the good stories which their parents and teachers have selected for them, but beyond that age could never be induced to read any thing that a judicious friend could deem proper for them. The tendency of a mind thus trained, is constantly to crave more and more highly spiced and exciting creations of fancy.

Sober and legitimate fiction is early found too tame; and resort is had to the multitudinous spawn of the profligate French press, so rapidly reproduced in what by a venial liberty of speech is termed English dress. Thus it happens that the most approved religious culture and the most depraved literary taste are not unfrequently conjoined; and that many of the graduates and teachers of our Sunday schools are prepared to vote George Sands a saint, and instal Eugene Sue as the great moral teacher of our times.

We rejoice that some of the best writers for children are returning to the old paths, and making really instructive books. The brothers Abbott on this score merit the thanks of parents, and must secure the lasting gratidude of children. Their various juvenile series, when fictions in form, have been so only in form, and have embodied a large amount of the most valuable instruction in science, art, geography and history, prevaded in the most unobtrusive and therefore the most penetrating style, by high moral principle and profound religious reverence. Similar praise is to be bestowed on the juvenile series of the Massachusetts Common School Library, and on quite a voluminous juvenile library issued a

few years ago under the popular "sobriquet" of Peter Parley. We have named these books to shew that materials are not wholly wanting among us for the creation and the supply of a better taste and a loftier demand in the important department of literature which has called forth these strictures. We commend the whole subject to parents as worthy of their utmost serious thought and lying within the scope of their sacred responsibility.—[Christ. Register.

Remarkable Rock.

One of the most remarkable rocks of which we have any knowledge has lately been discovered in the middle of the inland sea, Lake Superior. By a gentleman who has lately returned from Copper Harbor, we learn that a shaft of trappe-rock has lately been discovered rising in the lake from one hundred and fifty to two hundred miles from land and ascending above the surface of the water a distance of not above four feet. What renders it more extraordinary is that it stands alone, and all around it, so far as examinations have been made, no bottom has been reached by any of the lead-lines used on the lake, and the point of the rock itself does not exceed an area of more than six or seven feet square, and as far as osbervation of it has extended, it does not appear to enlarge in size as it descends. It has already, he states, become a source of alarm to the mariners who navigate this lake, who take special care in passing, to give it as wide a berth as possible.

It is too small –too remote and dangerous to admit of a light, and therefore its removal will doubtless pertain to the duty of the government. A single blast from a bore of sufficient depth, would probably do it; but the surface of the rock being so near that of the water, and the space so narrow as to forbid any regular lodgement for workmen, they would have to be attended constantly by a vessel of sufficient size to resist any sudden storm on the lake; and would also have to keep constantly under way, as no harbor, or even bottom for an anchor, is within a day's sail.

The discoverers relate that the rock appears to be a general resort for the salmon trout of those lakes, as they found them there in almost incalculable numbers, having, during their short stay, caught several barrels, with no other instrument than a rod of iron, on one end of which was a turned hook. They tried, with all their lines on board, for sounding, immediately around the rock but without success. Such a vast column could it be exposed to view, would laugh into ricicule Cleopatra's needle, Pompey's pillar, the Colossus of Rhodes, or any other production of ancient or modern art.—[Star in the West.

Aping the Rich.—What consummate foolishness it is for a young man or a young lady of moderate income 'to make a show.' We know individuals—you know such, good reader—who work hard, earn a pretty handsome livelihood, but spend all they can get, and more too, in endeavoring to live up to the style of their richer neighbors.

It is well enough for those who have ample means, to surround themselves with the elegancies of life, the luxuries even—those who by so doing do not run the risk of throwing the trouble of paying for them upon their creditors; but no man who has not the prospect of an adequate support through life, should spend his entire earnings in dress, in his housekeeping, or upon his table; else when old age comes like many who have followed the same course, he may find himself destitute of ordinary comforts, and dependent upon his neighbors or the public, even for the means of appeasing hunger.

Respect does not follow extravagance. The man who takes care of his earnings is far more respected than he who squanders all in 'riotous living.' So with the young lady. Although she may spend her last dollar in the purchase of the new silk dress or the costly shawl, and follow the whims of fashion as closely as does the fashionable belle who has thousands at her disposal, she cannot make people believe she is richer than she really is; and is more likely to incur suspicion as to her rectitude of character, and to keep away such young men as make good husbands, from her society, than if she lived prudently and dressed plainly.—[Portland Tribune.

Valuable Invention.—At the invitation of an acquatance, we called in yesterday, at the Phœnix Foundry, North Second street, to witness the operation of a recently invented apparatus for contracting iron bands, by means of compression. The machine is exceedingly simple in construction, and appears to us capable of being applied to very useful purposes, especially to what is called "up setting" tires. This is effected with one fifth the trouble neccessary in "upsetting" by the usual process of cutting, riveting and welding. The section of the tire intended to be acted on, is simply heated and applied to the vice of the machine, when by the action of lever in the hands of one person, it is instanecusly condenced or shortened in circumference to the extent desired. The power of the lever is forty-four times greater than the weight applied.

A portion of the machine is adapted to punching holes in iron bars, and another to cutting iron. The shears readily cut half inch iron bars without heating.

The machine is the invetion of Mr. Massey, of Green county, Illinois, and has been patented.—*St. L. Union.*

A Revolution.—The *Eco d' Atalia* tells us of a revolution in the little State of Monaco, now under the government of a Princess, Maria Clotildo. It seems the people have demanded a constitution, which the Princess refused, on which her son, Prince Pepino, declared her *hors deloi*, and assumed the reigns of government. The size of Manaco is about that of a Western corn field. It lies somewhere near the mouth of the river.

EDITOR'S TABLE.

Traveling Agents.

The following persons have been commissioned as Agents for the Valley Farmer:

G. H. WILSON, for Missouri, northern Illinois, and Iowa.

JOHN F. DUNNICA, for Missouri;

A. R. HAYNES, for Northern Illinois and Iowa;

J. W. BARLOW, of Burlington, will also act as General Agent for Iowa and vicinity.

City Agent.—Mr. Sidney Smith is authorized to receive subscriptions for the Valley Farmer and receipt for the same.

☞Some of our subscribers are still in arrears for the first volume. We hope they will not delay to remit the sums due. All arrearages should be sent to our address [E. Abbott,] and may be remitted by mail at our risk.

Destruction of the Fruit.—From all quarters we hear gloomy reports of the loss of the peach buds by frost. Particularly is this the case north and east of us. In this vicinity it is hoped that some of the later varieties may not be entirely destroyed.

The Season.—Thus far the season has been unusually unpropitious for farm work. Rain, frost, snow, and cold winds have in turn prevailed, so that we have scarcely had a warm day this spring. The greatest quantity of snow that fell during the season, at any one storm, was on Sunday, the 14th of April.

The Crops.—Throughout the entire West the wheat crop is represented as very promising. Corn, oats and other spring grains, will be late, but if the weather during the month of may should be favorable, good crops may be anticipated. The prospect for grass is uncommonly good, though rather backward.

Vitality of Eggs.—Mr. E. A. Holcomb, in the Boston Cultivator, says that he carried one dozen fresh Java Bantam Eggs less than a mile in a buggy, gave them to a good sitter, and got only three chicks from the whole. He also carried one dozen Dorking eggs carefully packed, 23 miles, set them under his best hen, but not one of the eggs hatched.

Per contra, another writer in the same paper says;—"I put a dozen eggs into a small box 'with care,' and then put the box into my trunk; put the trunk into an express wagon to be conveyed to the Eastern Railroad Depot, Boston. I took the cars in the afternoon for Portland, then the steamer for Bangor, when my trunk was put aboard the stage for Orono, where it arrived as well as myself, in safety." The result was that twelve chickens were hatched from the twelve eggs.

Variations of the Seasons.—A correspondent of the Ohio Cultivator, in Ashtabula county, Ohio, gives a table of the time of the opening of the first blossoms on a thrifty peach tree for seven years, from 1843 to to 1849. The earliest opening was in 1845--April 1st; the latest in 1844—May 13; extreme difference forty-three days.

The Dorking Fowl.—Mr. Munson Beech, of this city, imported pirect from England last season, a pair of pure blood Dorking fowls, from which he has growing at this time a number of chickens, which he will dispose of at reasonable prices to persons who wish to keep a superior race of fowls. We copy from the Am. Fowl-Breeder, Dr. Wight's remarks on this breed:

"After an experience of ten or twelve years, (having been in that time, the owner of many birds of different breeds,) I do not hesitate to give the Dorkings the preference.

"They have large and plump bodies, with a broad full chest, like the partridge, and in this peculiarity hold the rank among poultry that the Durhams do among cattle. When produced at the table, there is no other breed I have yet seen equal to them. They are also good layers, producing a good sized, clear, white egg, and, as sitters and mothers, cannot be surpassed by any breed of fowls. To obtain the pure breed is difficult. Any one who has imported them will attest to this fact. No sure criterion is found in the appearance of five toes, as has been stated. But where it is not found, I should apprehend a 'cross.' To describe a true Dorking is difficult, although a breeder could easily recognize one. Many writers say they are long in the body. But this is only true when they are young. As they come to maturity, the other parts are filled up, and they appear more like the form of a linnet than any other bird. The prominent points are these: A fine head, with brilliant, reddish tinged eyes, single or double combs, in both sexes; a graceful neck, rather short than long; wide, deep, projecting breast; the body is not only long, but is round, rather than flat or square; and the legs, considering their large size, short, and invariably of a silvery white. They move with an approach to the majestic. Their colors are (those I have imported at various times) both white and speckled; but I preferred to retain the white, and have bred from them. My stock is now nearly white.

"I may add that, when crossed with larger breeds, they invariably improve the form; and while the quality of the meat is also improved, the amount of offal is much reduced.

"They are a very hardy bird, and their young ones are easily reared—a fact of great importance in this climate."

To make Butter for the St. Louis Market.—After your cream is well soured, put it in the churn, in company with a good share of "clobber." Then put in a small portion of "rennet" and churn away. In a short time you will obtain a sort of cheesey butter or buttery cheese, to which add lard, flour, and salt as much as you choose, and make up into pound balls. Do up these balls in cotton rags, and your butter is ready for market, where you can readily sell it—"two pounds for a quarter of a dollar." It is not necessary to be

over particular about dirt, as it all helps to make weight and besides labor is expensive.

P. S. It has been demonstrated that butter made in this manner is more profitable to the maker, than that made after any of the "improved methods" recommended by the agricultural societies and papers.

☞Persons wishing to purchase any kind of house-furnishing goods, will do well to no ice the card of Brainerd & Thorn, on the first page of our cover.

Knowledge and Ignorance.

It is an undeniable fact that the work of a farm never proceds so smoothly and satisfactorily to all parties engaged in it, as when the farmer is thoroughly conversant with his business. His orders are then implicitly obeyed, not because pronounced more authoratively, but because a skilful master's plans and directions inspire such a degree of confidence in the laborers as to be regarded as the best in the circumstances. Shame is actually felt by servants on being detected in error, whether of the head or heart, by the discriminating judgment of a skilful master; and a rebuke from him irresistibly implies ignorance or negligence in those who receive it. The fear of ignorance or idleness being imputed to them by a farmer acquainted with the capabilities of work-people by his own experience, and who can estimate their services as they deserve, powerfully urges laborers to perform a fair day's work in a workmanlike style.

Let the converse of this state of things be imagined; let the losses to which the ignorant farmer is a datly prey, by many ways—by the hypocrisy, negligence, idleness, and dishonesty of servants—be calculated, and it must be admitted that it is much safer for a farmer to trust to his own skill than to depend on that of his servants. No doubt a trustworthy steward may be found to manage for him; but in such a position, the steward himself is in a state of temptation, in which he should never be placed; and as the inferior servants never regard him as a master, where the master himself is resident, his orders are never so punctually obeyed. I would, therefore, advise every young farmer to acquire a competent knowledge of his profession, before undertaking to conduct a farm. I only say a competent knowledge, for the gift to excel is not imparted to all who select farming as their profession.—[Farmer's Guide.

Men become insane from business troubles, household affairs, or poor kin, or religious excitement, and all that sort of thing; but who ever heard of any body losing his brains while aiding the unfortunate? For keeping the mind sweet there is no pickle like humanity. Whenever you have a pain in the head, therefore, tap your heart—the effects will not only astonish the doctor, but even yourself.

WASHING MADE EASY.—Some of our country friends have been greatly imposed upon by an advertisement which has appeared in several of our New York newspapers, which reads as follows:

WASHING MADE EASY;

Or, how to Wash Clothes without Machines, Washboards or Pounding Barrels.

Send me one dollar, free of postage, and I will send you by mail, a printed circular, giving plain directions for washing clothes, that will enable one person to do all the washing of a large family before breakfast, thus avoiding all the confusion of a washing day. This method requires no machines, washboards, or pounding barrels—no turpentine, no camphine, or other offensive article—no rubbing the skin off your fingers—no tearing off buttons and wearing out clothes. This plan saves the clothes, makes them whiter, and never injures the finest fabric. The articles used cost but a few cents for a large washing, and can be obtained anywhere.

The circular also contains directions for Starching, Ironing, Washing, Removing Stains, &c.

These are the greatest chemical discoveries of the age. All the hotels, steamers, and large laundry establishments use my method of washing.

To avoid immitations and counterfeits, be sure to direct your letter to—

Now, we would most respectfully recommend our friends not to send a dollar for this washing invention. "The circular" or pamphlet alluded to does not cost three cents to print, yet a dollar is charged for it. Is this honest? We think it a cheat.

For the benefit of the curious, we extract the following from an exchange, which explains this "great secret."

WASHING LIQUOR.—A correspondent who calls himself the "Washerwoman's Friend," says: "There is now a washing liquor sold at Sheffield, at the most extortionate prices, beautifully labelled;" but, for the benefit of washerwomen, who are generally the really deserving poor, we will impart the wonderful secret, which has been obtained from Mr. Twelvetrees:—1 lb. of soda, 1-2 lb. of lime, 1-2 lb. of soap. The soda and soap are boiled together, and the lime alone, in two quarts of water; and then, after being boiled, are used as required.—*Liverpool Standard.*

Another paper is still more definite.—Dissolve 1-4 lb. of lime in boiling water, straining twice through a flannel bag; dissolve separately 1-2 lb. of brown soap, and 1-2 lb. of soda; boil the three together. Put six gallons of water into the boiler, and when boiling add the mixture. The linens, which must have been steeped in cold water for twelve hours, are wrung out, any stains rubbed with soap, and put into the boiler, where they must boil for thirty-five minutes. They are then drawn, (the liquor being preserved, as it can be used three times,) placed in a tub, and clear boiling water poured over it. Rub them out, rinse them well in cold water, and they are ready for drying.

Thus, we have the whole secret, which appears to be of *English* origin, brought to America on a speculation We think it won't succeed.—*Water Cure Journal.*

Four thousand bags Rio coffee were sold in New Orleans on the 9th inst., at eight cents per pound.

From the Philadelphia Dollar Newspaper.

Geometry applied to Farming.

It may appear, at first sight, as if the science of geometry could have but little to do with agriculture; and yet there are few in the ordinary occupations of life in which it is of such general utility. The farmer does not plant a row of corn, or construct a drain, or a road, or even plow his ground, without applying, whether he be concious of it or not, important mathematical principles. He cannot build a fence, or plan a dwelling, or a barn, without describing methematical figures; and in doing this he can, by the application of a few of the most obvious principles of geometry, be enabled to save as well time and labor as money. I propose in this short article, to demonstrate the above fact in such a manner as shall render it plain to all. And first, let us take fencing.

The main object to be sought in building fences is, of course, to enclose the greatest possible quantity of ground in the least possible fence. It may seem a self-evident proposition, that a certain number of rods of fence will enclose a certain number of rods of ground, no matter in what particular form said enclosure may be made; but there cannot be a greater mistake, as I will presently show.

Most of the fields in this country are enclosed in the form of either squares or parallelograms. A parallelogram (I will explain, as every one may not understand the term) is a four-sided, right-angled figure, having two long and two short sides; or, in other words it is what is known in many parts of our country as an "oblong square." Now suppose it be required to enclose a field with four hundred rods of fence, in what manner shall it be laid out so the said four hundred rods of fence shall enclose the most ground? If it be laid out in the form of an exact square, each side will be one hundred rods in length, and the field will contain exactly ten thousand square perches, or sixty-two and a half acres. If it be laid out in the form of a parallelogram, having two long sides, each one hundred and fifty rods, and two short sides, each fifty rods, it will still require four hundred rods of fence; but it will contain only seven thousand five hundred perches of land, or about forty-six and three quarter acres; showing the difference in favor of the square to be twenty per cent. A large majority of fields in this country are right-angled parallelograms, when squares would have been equally convenient, and a large portion of labor and materials employed in constructing and keeping up the fences might have been saved! If fences were constructed without reference to other boundaries, as in enclosing a quantity of land on a prairie, the advantages of circles over every other form are still obvious. For, suppose four hundred rods of fence be built in the form of a circle, it will enclose nearly twelve thousand seven hundred and fifty perches, being two thousand seven hundred and fifty more than the square, and five thousand two hundred and fifty more than the parallelogram.

Hexagonal, or six-sided figures, approaching nearer to the form of circles than do squares, offer similar advantages. This is the form in which the bees build their cells, and science shows that in no other form can an assemblage of enclosures be made with as little waste of material as in this, thus showing a coincidence between mathematical knowledge and animal instinct. On most farms circular or hexagonal fields would be impracticable, owing to the shape of the farm; but there are ceartain small enclosures where these forms are practicable. I have taken the above large enclosures as examples, because in them the advantages of one shape over another is obvious. In small enclosures, the proportion is equally great, though of course not equally glaring.

In enclo-ing gardens, barn-yards, sheep-folds, &c. the fences of which are usually built without reference to other boundaries, the circle offers advantages over all other forms. For if a certain piece of ground, for a garden or barn-yard, be enclosed with two hundred and forty feet of fence, it will coutain, if laid out in a parallelogram, eighty feet on each long side, and forty feet on each short ditto; three thousand two hundred square feet; if laid out in the form of a square, it will be sixty feet on each side, and will contain three thousand six hundred square feet: if it be laid out in a circle, it will contain four thousand five hundred and seventy-nine square feet. This shows the advantages of one form over another very plainly.

The some principle applies to the construction of outbuildings, such as corn-cribs, ice-houses, smoke-houses, hog pens, in all of which a large proportion of materials and labor can be saved by adopting the circular or hexagonal form.

Houses and barns have, from time immemorial, been right-angled buildings, and I suppose, according to the immutable laws of custom, must be built so; but even here, a large amount of materials and money may be saved. I now speak of conntry houses, where the builder is not obliged to plan his house according to the shape of a contracted town lot. Nine-tenths of all farm buildings are in the form of a right-angled parallelograms; and in thus erecting them, space is sacrificed without any saving in labor or money. For, suppose a house or barn be built twenty feet front by forty in depth, which is a very common proportion for buildings; it will then require one hundred and twenty feet of wall to enclose it, and its floor will contain eight hundred square feet. If it be built in the form of a square, thirty feet on each side, the length of the wall reqnired to enclose it will be the same; but iis floor will contain nine hundred square feet, being the difference in favor of the square of one hundred feet, which, to the farmer who likes a good roomy threshing-floor, is an item of no small importance.

From the above premises, then, we draw the following conclusions:—

1st. That all large enclosures should be, as nearly as possible, exact squares, not parallelegrams or "oblong sqares"

2d That small enclosures, wherever practicable should be circular, or of some figure approacing the circle as nearly as possible.

3d. That small out-buildings should be circular, and large buildings, where plenty of room is desired should be square.

4th By adopting the above forms, a large proportion of time, labor and materials, and therefore of money, may be saved without any sacrifice of space.

Cola.

Note.—In endeavoring to make the above subject plain, I am aware that I have departed from the strictness of mathematical terms somewhat; but the conclusions drawn from the above will, I think, be found mathematically correct.

From the Michigan Farmer.

White Mustard.

The cultivation of this plant, either as sheep feed or to be plowed in as green manure, is a new system in British agriculture, but is rapidly increasing in use. It must be distinguished from the intolerable weed, the black mustard. The white mustard is that which is grown in gardens as a salad—*sinipsis alba* of Linnaeus. This plant cannot become a weed, as it is immediately destroyed by the first frost. Its full hight is four or five feet from the ground. It grows in any land, but peat and rich wheat soils are the best. The field should be well plowed and dragged fine; then sowed evenly, at the rate of a peck to an acre, and lightly dragged both ways. In England it may be sown from May to the middle of July, and will be ready to burst into bloom in six or seven weeks. After tuly its progress is slower. Six acres sown from he 10th to the 15th of May, was 2 feet and a half high by the 21st of June, and 228 sheep and 70 lambs were then kept on it for twelve days, with much improvement. Wheat sowed on this mustard plowed under, far exceeds wheat sowed on a good clover ley, plowed in. For sheep, mustard is healthy food, but should be given sparingly at first; if in conjunction with other food for the first few days all the better. It is in the greatest perfection for eating just before coming into blossom; but it is advisable to begin to stack it several days or a week before it is in this state, otherwise it will become old and sticky. It is also beiter in succession. If plowed in, it should not be allowed to flower. There can be no doubt that this would prove a highly valuable acquisition to the wheat farming of Michigan, as it might be ready for sheep at the time when grass and clover are deficient: and as manure would cost less, both for seed and labor, than clover, while it appears to produce superior effect to buckwheat. It is said to be an antidote for the wire-worm.

A Word to Boys.

Truth is one of the rarest of gems. Many a youth has been lost to society, by suffering it to tarnish, and foolishly throwing it away. If this gem still shines in your bosom, suffer nothing to displace it or dim its lustre.

Profanity is a mark of low breeding. Show us the man who commands the best respect. An oath never trembles on his tongue. Read the catalogues of crime. Inquire the character of those who depart from virtue. Without a single exception, you will find them to be profane. Think of this, and let not a vile word disgrace you.

In our opinion, the theatre is no place for the young. The effect of the stage is demoralising. What virtuous parent does not tremble, when he hears that his son steals away from the family circle to enter the theatre? He fears the result.

Honesty, frankness, generosity, virtue,—blessed traits! Be these yours, my boys and we shall not fear. You will claim the respect and love of all. You are watched by your elders. Men who are looking for clerks or apprentices, have their eyes on you. If you are profane, vulgar, theatre-going, they will not choose you. If you are upright, steady, and industrious, before long you will finy good places, kind masters, and have the prospect of a useful life before you.—[Portland Tribune.

Keep out of Debt.

Debt is the severest task-master. A person in debt is a doomed man. He is shunned and dispised; the very dogs bark at him as he passes along. A man in debt feels like an escaped outlaw—a villain of the first magnitude—and what is worse, he feels there is no help for him. He does not dare to ask a favor, or refuse to bow and smile at his independent neighbor. If you are out of debt, young man, keep clear of its meshes. You had better do any thing—dig clams or peddle books—stub boards or write sermons—make perpetual motion or edit a newspaper—do anything, but don't fall in debt. Shun the monster as you would shun a constable, the devil,—in a deputy tax collector. Debt spreads the sky in sackcloth—digs a horrible pit before you—clouds the atmosphere—darkens the sun—destroys the harmony of nature—converts beauty and bloom to moulds and cobwebs—drives health from the cheek—peace from the heart, and makes the world a vast charnel house of wasting sinewes, broken bones and eyeless skulls. Who will not keep out of dept? if you have any self-respect, hope for an atom of peace or desire one moment's rest, avoid being in debt. Come not under its iron wing. Enter not its adamantine jaw. Run from it as you would from plague, pestilence and the horrors of the blackness of darkness. We speak from experience—but thank God a brighter day has dawned upon us. Young man, we pray you keep out of debt.

A Spanish peassnt when he eats a good apple, pear, peach, or any other fruit, in a forest, or by the road side, plants the seed, and hence it is, that the woodlands and road-sides of Spain have more fruit in and along them than those of any other country.

Commercial.

St. Louis, April 26, 1850.

The prices of leading articles of produce have ranged very high through the winter, and these prices still continue. Especially is this the case with all articles of subsistence for man and beast. In the retail provision market, prices are remarkably high, and we see no reason why *farmers* should go to California, if gold is the object of their desire.

TOBACCO—Prices remain as high as at any time of the season, with a fair demand. Sales have been made within a few days at all prices from $3 25 for damaged refused to $7 75 for passed leaf, per 100 lbs.

HEMP—Inferior to fair, dew rotted, $85a$90, good to prime $94a$95, choice $97 per ton. Supplies are small, and market firm.

WHEAT—Mixed and spring wheat 80c. a 105c; fall 108c. a 120c. sacks returned. Notwithstanding that heavy shipments have been received here from various unusual quarters, former prices are well sustained.

FLOUR—We quote common to fair country brands at $4¼ a$5; choice do $5a$5¼; City mills $5¾a$6¼ per bbl. Market dull, with a downward tendency.

CORN—50 a 55 cts. per bushel, sacks included. Trade brisk; demand mostly for shipment.

OATS—50a53 cents, sacks included. In demand.

PORK—Prime $6 37 a $6 50; Mess $8 25 a $8 70; clear $9 50 per bbl. Demand very good.

BACON—Shoulders 2¾ a 3¼; sides 4 a 4¼; hams 5 a 5½; canvassed 6¼ a 8.

LARD—$5 a $5¼ per 100 lbs.

BUTTER—According to quality, from 7 to 18 cents per lb. as usual. At retail, good table butter has been selling at 20a 25 cents per lb.

CHEESE—7¼ a 9 cts. per lb.

GROCERIES—Rio Coffee, 9¼ a 11 cents, wholesale, and declining; sugar 3¾ a 4¼ c. do; molasses, 24 a 25c. do.

DRIED FRUIT—Apples $1 75 a $1 80; Peaches $2 a $2 25 per bushel. Dull.

GREEN APPLES—$3 a $3 25 per bbl.

CASTOR BEANS—$2 60 per bushel.

POTATOES—65 a 80 cents, at retail.

COTTON YARNS—20 a 20 ½ c by wholesale.

HOPS—22 to 23 per lb.

BEESWAX—19 a 21c.

FLAXSEED—$2 per bushel, at retail.

CLOVERSEED—$4 25 a 4 50c per bushel, at retail.

TIMOTHY SEED—$2 75 a $3 per bushel, at retail.

HEMPSEED—$1 75 a $2 per bush.

BLUE GRASS—Stripped, $1 a $1 25 per bushel; clean $1 75 a $2—retail prices.

TALLOW—5 to 7c per pound.

HIDES—9a9¾c per lb.

CASTOR OIL—$2 a $2 10 per gallon.

FEATHERS—26 a 30 cts. per pound.

EGGS—7 a 8c. per doz. by the bbl.; at retail 8 a 10 cts.

HAY—$1 10 to $1 30 per 100 lbs.

STOCK MARKET.—There is an improved demand for Beef Cattle, and No. 1 for shipment now command $4 75 a $5,—choice lots have been sold to butchers as high as $6. Other descriptions we quote at $e 50 a $5, per 100 lbs. as in condition. Calves are scarce, and bring $5a$5 50 per head. Sheep are also in good demand, and are selling at from $2 75 to $3 25 per head. Hogs are scarce and in demand. Sales from wagons to butchers are making at $3 a$ 3 25 per 100 lbs.

The Roller.

The Roller is an instrument of great use in husbandry, though scarcely know in many places. Those who have used it, generally testify, with one sentiment, concerning its utility. Rollers are made in various ways, but the best and cheapest way to make them, is to take the body of a tree, from six to seven or eight feet long, made as near a perfect cylinder as possible. The circumference should be so large that the roller will be very heavy. If the log is not large enough, it can be enlarged by putting three or four hoops around it, and then pin narrow pieces of plank to them, so narrow as to ply into a circle.

Grain ought to be rolled immediately after the seed is sown. The practice of rolling grain when it is just springing up, is no doubt injurious. It deranges the roots, and checks its growth a week or a fortnight. The benefits of rolling are many. It renders a loose soil more compact and solid, which encourages the growth of plants by making the earth more close around all the roots. Neither need we fear of making the earth too compact, for no roller that can be drawn by a common team, will have that effect. In the next place, rolling keeps in the moisture, and hinders drought from penetrating. This effect is of great moment. In a dry season, it may be the means of saving a crop, especially where the soil is light. In the third place, it puts the ground in a condition which will very much facilitate the mowing for hay. All the small stones, which often trouble very much the mower's seythe, are crushed into the ground; all the little ridges are levelled, the sods are flattened, and the field is made perfectly smooth.

Then, we say in conclusion, let every farmer have a roller on his farm. Don't grudge the expense of getting one. In a single year, in haying on those fields that have been rolled, you will be amply paid for the cost of the roller.—[Dollar Newspaper.

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